

# THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

DECEMBER 2007

Volume 20, Number 8

PAGE FIFTEEN

**We couldn't just dump our load when we got to the woodbox.**

- Lorna Quimby

PAGE SIXTEEN

**One look at this chocolate extravaganza and you'll sing the Hallelujah Chorus.**

PAGE THIRTY-TWO

**Landscape Painting the Way of the Old Masters**



## PUMPKIN HILL SINGERS RECORD FIRST CD

LISA HANTMAN

It is nine o'clock on a Saturday morning, in the parlor of St. Johnsbury's North Congregational Church. The Pumpkin Hill Singers are about to record our first CD. Entitled *With Song Alone*, the disc is a tribute to life in Vermont, with particular references to the Danville area.

Each song is based on a poem by tenor Steve Parker, set to music and arranged by his wife, Susanne Terry, who has directed the group since the 1980's. The original and personal nature of what we will be singing has contributed to the sense of anticipation as we gather ourselves together this day ...

At a previous "tech rehearsal," we and our musicians were positioned carefully for audio balance and visual sightlines, under the guidance of experienced recording technician Bob Amos. (Area resi-  
*(Please Pumpkin on See Page 20)*

**Maple Center Motors, Inc.**  
1128 Memorial Drive  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802) 748-4527  
autotrader.com

Gary Sanborn  
Kevin Sanborn  
David Greenwood

Doug Stetson  
Sarah Corey  
Anne Baker

**NEED COMPUTER HELP?**  
Hardware or Software  
**wyBatap.com**  
(802) 633-4395  
perstech@wybatap.com  
*If I'm not helpful there is no charge.*  
See Business Directory on Page 30.

## The Simple Neon Sign Beside the Door Spells Out Bakery



Photo By: North Star Monthly

*David and Kathy O'Donnell-Leach rode the rising tide of the high tech industry until they opted out of eastern Massachusetts and turned their car to Groton, VT. In September they opened The Village Baker on Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury, and the change has been a good fit for all.*

TERRY HOFFER

**B**akers are a curious lot. They create bread and pastries, maybe pies and cakes, but it seems the most dedicated among them tend to their craft late at night. They work in the dark to have their goods ready to go at first light when customers are apparently the most susceptible to the wonderful aroma of freshly baked dough.

Who among us has never felt the urge to try bread straight from the oven, a piece of coffee cake steaming beside a cup of fresh coffee or pastries in a glass case waiting to be selected from among other works of culinary high art? The best of those temptations are traditionally conceived in the dark and pulled from the oven before first light, well before most of us reach for our alarm clocks.

David O'Donnell-Leach rode the rising tide of the Massachusetts high tech industry counting 20 years as a technical writer. A "soulless job" he calls it, he wrote hardware and software manuals for such giants as Nokia, Data General and Spyglass, the essence of Google, the system we take for granted as the source of all questions and answers on the Internet.

In 1997 David and his wife, Kathy, acquired a summer home in Groton, and as the high tech industry ebbed, they had second thoughts about their job satisfaction and raising their children in the public schools of Massachusetts.

David took an occupational aptitude test and confirmed that he had a tendency to the creative and that he was more than proficient at chemistry. As he describes it, the transition to Vermont was underway. But what could he do, what could he learn as a marketable skill to provide for his family away from the bright lights and high tech of eastern Massachusetts?

In March of 2003 David approached the owner of the Fornax Bakery in an old and predominantly Greek neighborhood in Boston and proposed that he work as an apprentice. The Fornax Bakery is in Roslindale Square, and David had visions of a new trade and a new life hopefully to be based in Vermont.

The Fornax opened in 1997 with a pizza oven, a table and a cash

box and has evolved into a two-shift wholesale bakery, a cafe and a destination for aficionados of fresh bread for miles around. Most mornings customers wait in a line spilling out onto the sidewalk.

David says the apprenticeship went as agreed. He was paid \$10 an hour, and he stayed for six months. He learned enough to allow the owner his first vacation, ever. The bottom line David says, be it your mother's homemade bread in the kitchen or hundreds of pounds of dough every day at the Fornax, is that there is no rushing the dough. "It's not like a restaurant," he says, "where you can push people in and out and turn the tables more quickly than you did the day before. It's a different pace, and one you must learn to respect.

"The bread in the oven has priority over the dough in the proofer, which has priority over the dough on the bench, which has priority over the dough in the mixer, which has priority over the flour on the scales. It's hard to get people to understand that," he says. "You can't cut corners, and you just can't hurry good bread."

In 2003 David and his family sold their suburban Boston home, and the transition to Vermont turned serious. From Groton they looked at "a bunch of locations" for a Vermont bakery, first Groton and then farther afield. Kathy, says, "We kept coming back to Railroad Street

*(Please Continue on Page 12)*

THE North Star MONTHLY  
P.O. Box 319 • Danville, VT 05828-0319

## Out Stimulating the Economy

A cartoon in a recent issue of *The New Yorker Magazine* shows one man saying to another, "She's not here now, she's out stimulating the economy." And at a November celebration of economic development activity in Littleton, Dave Harkless of the Littleton Bike Shop urged those in the audience to buy local. Harkless said, "The worst thing you can do is sit in your pajamas and click on stuff on the Internet." Clicking on stuff on the Internet will involve none of the multipliers and none of the activity so encouraged by chambers of commerce all over the country.

In my recent conversation with David and Kathy O'Donnell-Leach at the new Village Bakery on Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury I was pleased to find the results of an unbiased, economic development litmus test. [See page 1.] David and Kathy are expatriates from the high tech industry in eastern Massachusetts. Seeking a place to open their bakery, they looked at any number of locations, but they say, they kept coming back to Railroad Street. There they found a busy community and stores offering unique services and products. Kathy O'Donnell-Leach says, "They are not stocked with mediocre products in mediocre environments. They are an experience, where people who are looking for a range of choices and certain amenities will shop, and that is what we hoped to create with our bakery."

In a way that no economic development strategy could predict or provide, the O'Donnell-Leachs came and they asked questions. They visited businesses, and they liked what they saw. In mid September they opened the door to their bakery, and it is a wonderful addition to the Railroad Street neighborhood.

Despite what some, I guess those who prefer to shop in their mail order catalogues or their Internet web-search, might say, there are plenty of choices and plenty of quality nearby. That I guarantee. No, I won't promise you'll find everything you ever dreamed of in any one place, but let me suggest this: Before you wrap up the last of your holiday bounty this year, pick two stores that you have never been in. Go and browse. Introduce yourself as one who has finally overcome the unexplainable reason for never before entering those places of business, and have a merry laugh.

Be it St. Johnsbury or some other community center I will promise you this: You will be pleasantly surprised. You will find character and variety. You'll find people you recognize, and when you wish each other a "Happy Holiday," you'll find that you mean it.

So from all of us at *The North Star* to our readers and friends wherever you may be, we send our best wishes for these days and the new year ahead.

Terry Hoffer

## If letters had feelings, Would Z have low self-esteem?

It is the season of waiting—waiting for the holidays, waiting for sufficient snow for winter sports, waiting for more daylight. As a child, I, like all children, hated waiting. I recall from elementary school and summer camp experiences that when we students or campers gathered to organize for some event, more often than not it was "Line up in alphabetical order." I and my peers with surnames that began with a letter from the latter half of the alphabet were fated for longer waits. As end-of-the-liners, not only did we have to wait longer, we also were left with whatever was at the bottom of the barrel. We got the wilted grilled cheese sandwiches, the lopsided four-square balls, the smelly life preservers. I suppose we were told that taking our turn in line was the proper and polite way to keep order, which did little to offset what seemed to our young minds the great injustice of perpetually waiting the longest to get the leftovers. Once in a rare while, perhaps in an attempt at equity, we were lined up in reverse alphabetical order. The Z's were then the first to get, say, their forearm pricked for the tuberculosis test. Such experiences promoted sensitivity to the inalterable truth that some things in life are not fair.

Suppose letters had feelings. Would X, Y or Z feel inferior or slighted by their front of the alphabet brethren because of their placement at the tail of the alphabet? I think not. And I come to this opinion because of car names. A recent perusal of the cars passing me on the road, and on-line sources, revealed that car names are chosen much like names for newborns. A car name is selected, often after a lengthy and expensive process, because it is appealing to those selecting the name. In the case of automobiles, the appeal is the perceived reception in the market and how the name will promote sales of the car.

Have you noticed how high-end vehicles, be they at the high end of power, performance or luxury, have letters before or after their names? Sometimes the letters are used as abbreviations, such as in BMW's 760i ("i" for fuel injection) or the Cadillac DTS (Deville Touring Sedan). More often, however, there is no obvious connection between the letters used in the name and the attributes of the car. Although the first letters of the alphabet are sometimes used in the names of high-end cars, the Audi "a" series for example, there are a lot more S's, T's, X's and Z's. Why is this? Why does the letter X convey speed, power, and sophistication better than, say the letter B? Consider the Subaru WRX, Acura RSX or TSX. Say they were dubbed the Subaru BCJ or Acura EDH; such names do not project the same image of higher performance. Would the aura of luxury suffer if the Lexus LS or Lincoln MKZ were named the Lexus AC and Lincoln BF? Whether it is due to appearance or sound or some other quality, we use the end of the alphabet letters to project automotive muscle, agility and savior faire. Given this (to me inexplicable) appeal, if they were animate, there is little reason for Z and the other end of the alphabet letters to suffer low self-esteem or indulge in self-pity.

Tim Tanner

## Letters to the Editor:

### Barnet Center Church

Dear North Star,

I would like to add a footnote to your article about the Barnet Center Presbyterian Church, which may illustrate its unique character.

One fiercely cold January

Sunday I decided that my Joe's Brook family should attend the local church rather than the Grace Methodist Church in St. Johnsbury. The distance is a bit shorter, and I thought our VW microbus might crank out some heat going up the steep incline at the start. Often a few minutes late, we were skilled at slipping unnoticed into back pews.

At Barnet Center, however, the pews face the entry door, so

our late arrival was observed by the whole congregation, which happened to be clustered in the center of the sanctuary. We quickly sat down and then noticed, to our further chagrin, that a huge clock behind the pulpit quantified our sin of tardiness to the minute. When the minister, Reverend Stan Blankenship came to his "amen," he turned to us and he said, "If you're wondering why everyone is gathered over

THE North Star MONTHLY

**EDITORIAL OFFICES:**  
P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Street  
Danville, VT 05828-0319  
(802) 684-1056

**EDITOR:**  
Terry Hoffer

**ART DIRECTOR:**  
Suzanne Tanner

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:**  
Tim Tanner

**CIRCULATION:**  
Kathy Hoffer

**ADVERTISING:**  
Vicki Moore

**EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:**  
John Haygood  
Jane Larrabee  
Susan Lynaugh  
Betsy McKay

**The North Star Monthly** (ISSN#1043-8041) is produced and published monthly by Polestar Publishing, Inc. located at 29 Hill Street, Danville, VT. Subscription Rates are \$16 per year. Printed in USA. Copyright 2007 by Polestar Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without expressed permission from Polestar Publishing, Inc. Publisher is not responsible for errors resulting from typographical errors. Acceptance of advertising is subject to publisher's approval and agreement by the advertiser to indemnify the publisher from loss or expense on claims based upon contents of the advertising. Publisher does not assume liability for errors in any advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the individual item in which the error appeared.

Postmaster: Send address changes to **The North Star Monthly**, P.O. Box 319, Danville, VT 05828-0319. Periodical postage paid at Danville, VT.

**Contributors to this issue include:** Denise Brown, Carroll Colby, Lorna Quimby, Jeff Gold & Ellen Gold, John Downs, Isobel P. Swartz, Rachel Siegel, Van Parker, Vanna Guldenschuh, Alice S. Kitchel & Burton Zahler, Bill Christiansen, Elizabeth Syzmanick, Bets Parker Albright, Leonard Perry, Lisa Hantman, Dee Palmer and Sarah Walls.

e-mail: [northstar@kingcon.com](mailto:northstar@kingcon.com)  
[www.northstarmonthly.com](http://www.northstarmonthly.com)

## Write to Us

**LETTERS:** Write to *The North Star*, and let us know what's on your mind. Your point of view or observation is important to us. Letters must be signed.


**ARTICLES:** We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask first, please call or email us. We'll send you our guidelines. No fiction, please.

**PHOTOS:** We'd like to see your photos and we welcome them with a story or without. They can be black-and-white or color, but they must be clear. Digital is best.

**PRESS RELEASES:** We much prefer press releases that are unique to *The North Star*.

**DEADLINE:** 15th of the month prior to publication.

*All materials will be considered on a space available basis.*



there, it's because that's where the heat comes up from downstairs. I suggest you join them." We did. Stan barely managed to subdue his merriment beneath his proper clerical decorum.

The church was open during Holiday in the Hills, showing a splendid renovation. I didn't think

to ask about the heat.

Stan and his wife Joan rest in a corner of the churchyard. Thanks be to God for their good souls and their many gifts to our community.

Bruce Hoyt  
Rockville, MD

*(Please see Letters on Page 4)*

# Brooklyn Theater Disaster Death Toll Over 400 Schooner Bound for Burlington Sinks in Saturday's Gale



## THE NORTH STAR

December 1, 1876

The mutations of trade are illustrated in the fact that a year ago the price of coal was high and sugar was comparatively low. At the present coal is very cheap and dull, but sugar is high and scarce, with the supply at the principal ports being fully seventy two per cent less than at this time last year. Prices for sugar are in fact, higher than for several years, and there is no prospect of them returning to lower figures for some time, unless there should be no export demand and the new crop turns out larger than anticipated.

Last Thursday, Thomas Lynch of Bethel caught an eagle in a trap, which measured over seven feet from tip to tip of the wings.

It is anticipated that the establishment of the Mary Fletcher Hospital at Burlington will be especially advantageous to the medical college there.

The Rutland Globe makes the statement that there are 90,522

white men in the state who can neither read nor write and 6,867 more who do it so badly as to be called illiterate. That is one fourth of the state's population.

It is pork killing time. Some of our village residents have already slaughtered their hogs. The price of pork is not established, but we heard of half a spring fatted pig being sold the other day for eight cents dressed weight.

December 8, 1876

**State Library** - The Vermont State Librarian is hereafter to have an annual salary of one thousand three hundred dollars but will be obliged to pay his own assistants. An arrangement will doubtless be made so that the library will be kept open throughout the year. The salary is none too large but is all that could be expected from the economical legislature.

The small pox excitement in St. Johnsbury has subsided. There are no new cases in that place or the vicinity.

**Good Porkers** - Our village residents have slaughtered some heavy porkers this week. Dr. Hosea Farr takes the lead on spring pigs. He had one eight months and eight days old, which weighed when dressed 366 pounds. Dr. Durant had one just about the same age, which dressed 362 pounds. In the old hog line, Hiram Brainerd beats the crowd. A fifteen month hog dressed 574 pounds. Geo. B. Davis had one that dressed 523 pounds of about the same age.

John Gorman of Rutland has been sent to the Reform School for stealing postage stamps from the meat market of Dunton & Hayward.

December 15, 1876

**Brooklyn Theater Disaster** - An awful fire occurred in the Brooklyn Theater last week Tuesday evening. It was the most terrible calamity of the kind that ever occurred in this country, and it has spread a pall not only over the city of Brooklyn but throughout the land. It is hoped that the American people will never again be called upon to contemplate such a dire situation. Evidence before the fire marshal gives reason to believe that over 400 persons perished. Blinded by smoke and panic stricken the people in the gallery so blocked the exits that almost all lost their lives. Box office returns show that there were over 400 persons in this part of the house. It is probable that the exact loss of life will never be actually known, for many of the victims have been reduced to ashes in the terrible heat of the fire.

A lumberman in Groton intends to cut four million feet of logs and ten thousand cords of wood this winter.

**Fire in Danville** - Last Monday forenoon the house owned and occupied by William Pickett, located about a mile north of the Green, was entirely consumed by fire. Most of the furnishings and household articles were saved except several

bushels of potatoes - no insurance. The fire caught from a loose piece of lathing over the stove pipe. Mr. Pickett has a large family, including several small children, and they are suddenly left without house or home. For some time Mr. Pickett had expended much time and money on his house, and he had so far progressed as to make of it quite a comfortable tenement. Does this case not only appeal to the general sympathy but to the financial liberality of our citizens?

John Stevenson has opened a store in the Babcock house in Peacham Hollow, where he is selling groceries and dry goods.

December 22, 1876

It is reported that Rev. E. D. Hopkins of St. Johnsbury, whose financial operations have given him unenviable notoriety, has nearly recovered his health and will soon return to that place of his retreat in Canada. He promises some new revelations.

Mr. J. P. Perkins, a jeweler of Fairhaven died on Thursday evening from the effects of a dose of hellebore, which a clerk in Kellogg's Drug Store gave him by mistake for valerian.

That festive Rutland watchman, who so brutally dealt with his wife recently and who was reported as having committed suicide, has disappointed the public and still lives.

**Arctic Weather** - For some days past we have had strong wintry weather with considerable snow, heavy winds and almost an

arctic temperature. Last Saturday was about as tempestuous a day as we ever knew.

December 29, 1876

Years ago we rarely heard of Christmas celebrations in this section. A public festival, with a Christmas tree, were rarities. Times have changed. Now the day or evening is observed in many ways in our churches, the Sabbath School children of all denominations joining in the exercises. The Catholics are the most exclusive in its observance, but that church and the Episcopalians have always made holidays of Christmas time.

**A Leap for Life** - The schooner Gen. Butler of Isle La Motte, loaded with stone, was sunk near the breakwater at Burlington during last Saturday's gale and her captain, Wm. Montgomery, a sailor, Mr. E. R. Goodsell, a daughter of the captain, and a lady friend of hers were obliged to jump a distance of 18 feet upon some ice covered rocks in order to save their lives before the ship went down. They had a very narrow escape and were severely chilled. The two women were so overcome that they were restored only with much difficulty.

**Arrested** - It is reported that Rev. E. D. Hopkins, late of St. Johnsbury and who went to Canada on account of financial crookedness and whose proceedings have been pretty freely ventilated, was caught this side of the Line last Saturday and placed in the Irasburgh jail.

# THE North Star MONTHLY



Send  
**The North Star**  
for only \$16  
Or send a year  
to yourself.

Don & Avis Abrams, Surry NH  
Jeanne Adams, Terrell NC  
Eugene Allen, Springfield MA  
Dawn Almeida, Watertown CT  
Kenneth & Eric Bean, West Danville VT  
Giovanna Belanger, Danville VT  
Harold J. Birch Jr., Soddy-Daisy TN  
Bill Blandford, Alexandria VA  
James Blandford & Tae Cannon, Alexandria VA  
Ken Boyer, Greene RI  
Anne & David Brown, Shelburne VT  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Churchill, St. Johnsbury VT  
Reg Craig, St. Petersburg FL  
Ryan Dauphin, St. Johnsbury VT  
Stan & Linda Dauphin, Danville VT  
Dr. & Mrs. R. E. Davis, Plattsburgh NY  
Denise Deschenes & David Sawtelle, St. Johnsbury VT  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Desilets, St. Johnsbury VT  
Barb & Carl Esser, Ft. Washington PA  
Valerie Finnegan, St. Johnsbury VT  
Harold Flanders, St. Johnsbury Center VT  
Mildred Fournier, Concord VT

## New North Star Subscribers and Renewals

Dennis M. Fuse, West Danville VT  
Allan D. Gilmour, Birmingham MI  
Soc Glasrud, Moorhead MN  
Kenneth Glaude, Wells River VT  
Kenneth E. Goslant, Peacham VT  
Mrs. Amy C. Graham, Stratford CT  
Kay Granger, Barnet VT  
Evangeline Guertin, St. Johnsbury VT  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hacking, Strongsville OH  
Bob & Clarann Haeger, San Anselmo CA  
Helen Hayford, South Burlington VT  
Paul & Reggie Hazel, Groton VT  
Louis and Arlene Hoegler, Walpole MA  
Hap & Betty Hutchins, Danville VT  
Russ & Charlotte Hutchins, St. Johnsbury VT  
Raymond Iverson, Clinton CT  
Jacqueline A. Johnston, West Newbury MA  
Karl & Nancy Jurentkuff, Sebastian FL  
Sally & Tom King, Rye NH  
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Landry, St. Johnsbury VT  
Pat Lewis, Norwich CT  
Raymond Locke III, Barnet VT

Anita Machell, Winter Haven FL  
Mrs. Betty May, Apache Jct. AZ  
Thomas & Linda McCaffrey, St. Johnsbury VT  
Chris McCarthy, Kansas City MO  
Bill McCarthy, Las Vegas NV  
Jimmy McCarthy, Las Vegas NV  
Michael McGinnis, Greeley CO  
Richard McGinnis, St. Johnsbury VT  
Elizabeth Mershon, Morrisville PA  
Kendra Mills, Missoula MT  
J. Mills & R. McElreavey, Silverthorne CO  
Sandra Molin, Webster NC  
Arland Noyes, Lyndonville VT  
Jenny Patoine, St. Johnsbury VT  
Bill & Helene Patterson, Cincinnati OH  
William & Alona Payette, St. Johnsbury VT  
Patricia Perkins, St. Johnsbury VT  
Robert Player, Lake Dallas TX  
Christopher Pouliot, Jamaica Plain MA  
Mrs. Russell Powden, Peacham VT  
Bruce & Barbara Pratt, West Danville VT  
Randy Pratt, St. Louis MO  
David Priester, Trumansburg NY  
Mary Pryor, Moorhead MN

John Roberts, Boston MA  
Judith H. Roberts, Waterbury Center VT  
Norman & John Robinson, Pilesgrove NJ  
Clifton Rock, St. Johnsbury VT  
Pat Sands, Marston Mills MA  
Patricia Singleton, Rohnert CA  
Kathy & Rodney Smith, Danville VT  
Robert Somers, Sussex VA  
George Stannard, Paxton MA  
Martin Steingesser, Portland ME  
Henry Stuart, Concord VT  
Phyllis Kehley Sweeney, Danville VT  
John B. Tescher, Cambridge MA  
Steve & Lora Thresher, Uniontown PA  
M. Jeanne True, St. Johnsbury VT  
William & Jane Ward, Montpelier VT  
James Wilson, Groton VT  
Virginia C. Wood, Groton MA

**Please! Send a gift subscription to:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR CITY \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes! Send me The North Star Monthly:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you don't want your name published as a subscriber of *The North Star*.

Limited number of back issues are available for the previous 12 months. Get them for \$1.50 per copy at *The North Star* office or send \$2.50 each and we'll send them to you.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
**\$16 / year**

North Star Monthly  
PO Box 319  
Danville, VT 05828  
**(802) 684-1056**

Long Distance  
(800) 286-1056

# Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 2)

**Isobel P. Swartz**

Dear North Star,

I am writing this letter in whole-hearted agreement with Isobel Swartz's intelligent, energizing column in the November North Star. I hope that many others besides myself will be roused to action, to follow her many suggestions for making known our disappointment—no, our disgust!—at the way things seem to be going. And all for whose benefit? Certainly not for the refugees we see on television, driven from their homes by the boundless greed of our country's leaders. Or the working families struggling to

make ends meet, even with two jobs.

Our regret for having allowed this to happen should goad us to action, to "being noisy and provocative," as Pat suggests. We seem to have taken our good fortune at being Americans for granted now. Remember that old proverb about what pride leads to, and join the march. I have already promised myself, for example, to return the requests for money from political parties, asking what they intend to do to rectify the infamous situation in Washington, to put an end to lies and the imbalance in the checks-and-balances power-sharing in our government, as a start. And why not demand impeachment of Cheney and Bush? Can we trust them for another year?

Susan Bowen  
Danville, VT

# Death to the Death Penalty

I have always opposed the death penalty. As a teen-ager in 1933, when my Sunday School class visited the Massachusetts State Prison, I was the first that year to sit in the electric chair. My memory of that experience continues to reinforce my belief that there is no credible argument to support the death penalty for any crime – unless one believes that "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is justification enough.

Maine abolished the death penalty in 1864, and Vermont did away with it in the 1950's. Countries in the European Union are prohibited from using the death penalty, and a new member of the Union is pressured to do away with it. A few years ago Turkish courts convicted the Kurdish rebel leader and ordered his execution. But when the government realized that carrying out the sentence would jeopardize its application to join the European Union, the sentence was changed to life in prison.

The United States Supreme Court, by reversing an earlier decision, held in 1976 that the death penalty was constitutional. Since then 37 states, the federal government and the military have adopted the death penalty. This is not surprising considering that a Gallup poll in May 2000 found that 76% of the people favor capital punishment. But to the consternation of many Vermonters, a few years ago the United States Attorney General ordered the Vermont District Attorney to seek the death penalty for a federal crime committed in Vermont. After the conviction, Judge William Sessions had no choice but to sentence the defendant to death.

As of April 24, 2007, there had been 1,098 executions since the death penalty was re-instated; sixteen were women. At the least, the Supreme Court has demonstrated some humanity by holding that no person can be executed for a crime committed when he or she was under the age of 18, and no mentally retarded defendant can be executed.

The other side of this gruesome execution record is that 67% of the convictions were ultimately reversed on appeal many years after the jury returned its verdict of guilty. The grounds for reversal include incompetent counsel, failure of the prosecutor to deliver critical evidence to the defendant as required by law, and errors by the judge in giving the jury wrong instructions. Ten per cent of the criminals were retried, found guilty and executed, but most received less severe sentences.

The principal arguments used by supporters of the death penalty are that it deters crime, improves the community by keeping convicted criminals off the streets, and is cheaper than keeping criminals (usually murderers) in high security prisons for the rest of their lives. These are invalid and specious arguments.

A study of New Jersey death penalty cases since 1983 found that prosecuting them cost \$253 million more than it would have cost if a sentence of life without parole had been involved. The study examined the costs of prosecutor offices, public defender offices, courts and correctional facilities. Since 1982 there have been 197 capital trials and 60 death sentences imposed, of which 50 were reversed. There have been no executions and ten men are now on death row.

A report by the Death Penalty Information Center to the Washington State Bar Association confirmed the excessive cost involved with death cases. The Office of the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury found that capital cases were 70% more expensive to prosecute than comparable non-death penalty cases. North Carolina, Indiana, Florida and California have reported similar results. I am not aware of any objective study or report that has found the death penalty to be a deterrent to murder or any other crime, or that the number of murders per 100,000 citizens in non-death penalty states like Maine and Vermont is any higher than in death penalty states. Escapes from prison by murderers are negligible.

I have waited until the end of the column to discuss the substance of the death penalty case argued before the United States Supreme Court in November. For me, it is proof that there is no place in our modern criminal justice system for the death penalty. The appeal challenges only the constitutionality of the most "popular" method of killing criminals used by 37 states — administering a lethal injection made up of three drugs that sedate and kill prisoners, sometimes called a "cocktail." The issue is whether or not the method carries an "unnecessary risk of pain."

One has to commend defense lawyers for raising every conceivable defense to keep their clients alive, but it is ridiculous when the issue on appeal concerns only the constitutionality of possible pain caused for a few seconds or, for at most, a few minutes before causing the inevitable death. The criminal has usually committed a heinous crime. In a recent New York Times Op-Ed article, "This is Going to Hurt," Mark Essig wrote "Pain is often a necessary part of death. That fact seems unfortunate yet unremarkable in cases of natural death. But when the killing is done deliberately on our behalf, we keep seeking ways to spare ourselves the dreadful truth."

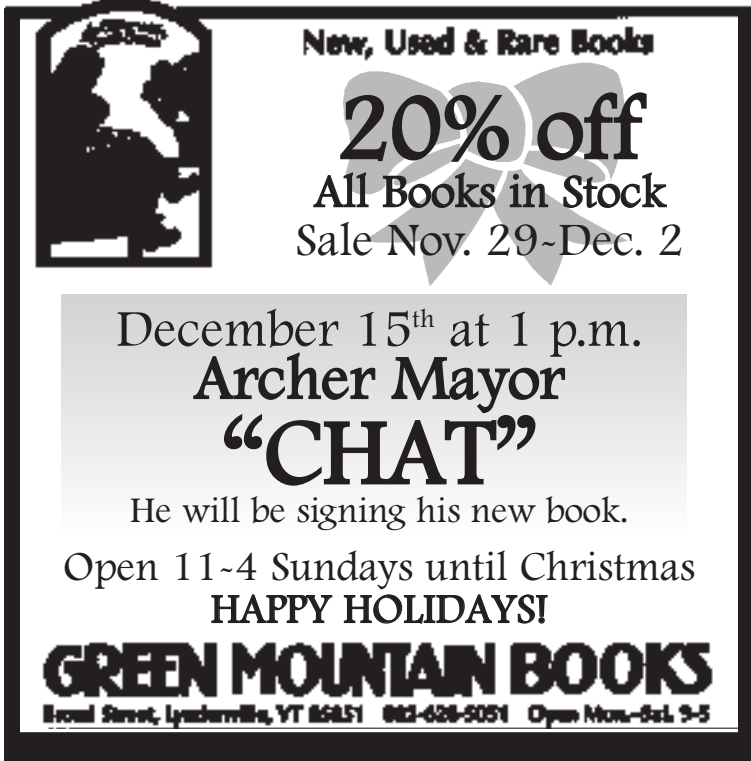
The best, simplest and most sensible way to rid ourselves of misgivings about pain caused by an execution is for the Court to decide once again, this time by a large majority, that the death penalty itself is unconstitutional. The benefits of such a decision would be substantial. DEATH TO THE DEATH PENALTY!

John Downs

Postscript: On Sunday, November 18, I read in The New York Times about several studies that found that executions have a deterrent effect. The studies did not change my opinion. For me, the most persuasive evidence against deterrence mentioned in the article is: "Canada has executed no one since 1962. Yet the murder rates in the United States and Canada have moved in close parallel since then, including before, during and after the four-year death penalty moratorium in the United States."



**River Garden Cafe**  
ROUTE 114 • EAST BURKE VILLAGE  
802.626.3514  
Lunch 11:30-2 • Dinner 5-9 • Sunday Brunch 11-2 closed Mon. & Tue  
- - fresh ideas...fresh ingredients. - -



**New, Used & Rare Books**  
**20% off**  
**All Books in Stock**  
**Sale Nov. 29-Dec. 2**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.**  
**Archer Mayor**  
**"CHAT"**  
He will be signing his new book.  
Open 11-4 Sundays until Christmas  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**  
**GREEN MOUNTAIN BOOKS**  
Broad Street, Lyndonville, VT 05451 802-626-5051 Open Mon.-Sat. 9-5

**REMEMBER**  
The Nature Store at the Fairbanks Museum



Puzzles  
Jewelry  
Scientific Toys  
Scented Candles  
Stuffed Creatures  
Weather Instruments  
Glass and Wood Ornaments  
And  
So Much More!

Open Tues-Sat 9-5 Sun 1-5  
748-2372  
1302 Main Street, St. Johnsbury

**LET US HELP YOU ENJOY THE SNOW!**  
...everyone deserves to have as much fun outdoors as we do.

**\* Professional Service & Equipment Repair**  
**\* Friendly, Helpful Service**

**Equipment, Clothing & Accessories from:**  
Oakely ♦ Scott ♦ Giro  
Karhu ♦ Atomic ♦ Alpina  
Tubbs ♦ Salomon ♦ Fox  
Solstice ♦ Columbia  
Trek ♦ Garmont ♦ Swix

**Happy Holidays**

**RENTALS**  
♦ Shaped Ski Rentals - \$20  
♦ Telemark - \$30  
♦ X-Country - \$18  
♦ Demo Skis - \$35  
♦ Snowboards - \$30  
♦ Snowshoes - \$18

**Your Complete ATOMIC**

**Service & Tune-ups that you will not find anywhere else!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

**(802) 626-3215**  
Rt. 114, East Burke, VT  
skibike@charterinternet.com  
www.eastburkesports.com

## It Takes a Village and so Much More

Hillary Rodham Clinton's book *It Takes a Village* was first published 10 years ago. I recently began reading it and discovered that many of the problems for families and children in the U.S. remain the same or worse. High divorce rate, teen pregnancy, educational disparity and access to health care are among the many issues that we haven't adequately addressed. Statistics about national and international levels of health care, were released at the beginning of November 2007. Vermont ranked at the top of the list nationally, but the U.S. was an abysmal 38th in the worldwide list. Part of the reason for this is that we have alarming rates of obesity, diabetes and poor prenatal care in many parts of this country.

Before I began reading Clinton's book I had been thinking about some of the attitudes toward children that I have encountered in this country. I have always thought that children are the future of any society and deserve the best physical, emotional and educational care we can provide. This is not what we do. There is always a tendency to pit parents with children against those who either do not have them or had them long ago. For example, I read about one company where employees who did not have children complained about the parental leave provided for parents of new babies or sick youngsters. How utterly selfish! I hope that people who feel that way never have their own children, because they are focused too much on their own lives.

Taxes for education are another major issue. No one likes paying taxes, and many of us get angry when we think our money is being wasted. It is difficult for people not involved in education to understand just what kids in school really need today: first, they need adequate nutrition in order to learn. Families should be able to do a better job providing for their children, but many middle and low - income families in the US are already stressed to the limit. Schools will do what they can to give all children the same opportunity to succeed to the level of which they are capable. Breakfast and lunch programs are vitally important to provide this opportunity for eligible kids. The same applies to counseling and other needed services over and above the regular academic fare. But all of these services cost money.

Public preschool is another point of controversy. I have heard people ask why we should pay to send all children to preschool when some parents can afford to pay? Why send children to preschool instead of daycare? There are several reasons. Wealthier families are already paying the taxes that provide so many programs for less fortunate families and all children should have the same benefits from preschool.

The second question was answered by a young French mother. French children go to Ecole Maternelle, (Nursery School), as soon as they are toilet trained. I asked my friend what the children learn at such an early age. She replied, "They first learn to be civilized and social." I like the sound of that. I think the use of the suffix "school" is significant. School is first about teaching children about the society in which they live and how to live positively with others. Some daycares do provide this kind of training but not all have time or are prepared to do so. A lot of our society's problems stem from antisocial behavior that could have been avoided by good early education. Academics come later and more easily if children have been part of a supportive group with some basic rules.

One concern for many families - children's health care - has recently become a political football. The President claims that increased funding for the SCHIP program, and the enrollment of children from middle class families who cannot afford private health insurance, in this supplemental program, would take the U.S. closer to government - sponsored universal health care. His claim that this would deprive private health insurance companies from a source of revenue is a specious argument. Private health insurance companies, using federal money, currently administer the SCHIP program in each state. The states decide how this money is to be used to provide needed care, and to whom this care shall be provided. Not all kids are born equal, but all deserve an equal chance to develop their unique potential. This requires equal educational opportunities, and equal access to good health care, especially preventive health care.

As I was researching for this column I came across a fascinating web site, The National Priorities Project [www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org). The site includes a running tally by the second, of dollars being spent on the war in Iraq, and a series of national priorities showing what that ever increasing amount of money would purchase here at home in terms of services for families, children, education, housing, health care etc.. It is a sobering picture. Here are a few of the findings: As of November 15 the cost of the war in Iraq to the American taxpayers is \$468 billion and is increasing at the rate of \$2 billion a week. This amount of money is equivalent to the cost of providing any of the following: one year of Head Start for 62 million children, one year of health insurance for 280 million children, the hiring of 8 million additional public school teachers for a year, or providing 4-year scholarships to public universities for 22 million students. It does take a village to care for our children, and all of us need to get our national priorities straight.

Isobel P. Swartz

## Community College of Vermont Registration Open

Registration for Community College of Vermont spring courses is underway at the College's 12 statewide locations, as well as online at [www.ccv.edu](http://www.ccv.edu).

Nearly 900 courses are open to degree and non-degree seeking students with classes offered online or in-classroom. Spring classes begin the week of January 22.

CCV's course schedule and no-charge admissions application are available online and at every CCV location. Academic advising is available to prospective and to new and returning students, who may contact the St. Johnsbury office at (802) 748-6673 to speak with an academic advisor about course selection, degree programs and options for transfer.

Once enrolled in the College, students may register for courses in person or online through Friday, January 11. With an average class size of 12 students, early registration is encouraged to ensure access to preferred courses.

Financial aid is available. Anyone interested in applying for financial aid should call 748-6673 and make an appointment to speak with a financial aid advisor. CCV maintains the state's most affordable tuition rates at \$180 per credit.

Degree-seeking students may choose from 17 associate degrees in a variety of fields. Students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree will find that credits from CCV transfer easily to four-year institutions. CCV is the number one source of transfer students to the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges, with over 50% of graduates transferring to a bachelor's degree program.

As Vermont's second largest college, CCV offers a first-rate education to 10,000 students each year.



### BALSAM & FRASER FIR

Cut Your Own: \$15 - \$25

Open Weekends in December  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hot Chocolate to warm the kids.

2113 Thaddeus Stevens Road in Peacham  
2 miles from Greenbanks Hollow covered bridge  
or 2.2 miles up Thaddeus Stevens Road  
from East Peacham

(802) 592-3366

From All of Us At

HAWKINS DENTAL  
1350

Wishing our Patients,  
Friends and Family a  
Blessed Holiday Season

Dr. Hubert Hawkins and Staff

1350 Main Street Suite 1  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

(802) 748-2325



### Joe's Pond Craft Shop

Look for the handcrafted shutters on the outside and enter the barn to find a pleasant shopping experience. All local fine handcrafts with a theme of country and folk art; quilting, rughooking, woodworking, pottery, weaving and so much more.

Tues - Sat: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Closed Mondays (802) 684-2192

Rt. 2 & 15, West Danville, VT

See [www.joespondcrafts.com](http://www.joespondcrafts.com) for more information

# Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

## How the Markets Stole Christmas?

As the days grow colder and darker, 'tis the season when consumption is king, but the truth is that our economy relies on retail sales in every season. Consumption accounts for far more than half of our gross domestic product, our measure of economic productivity. We may be less of a manufacturing and more of a service or knowledge or creative or information economy, but we sure are a consuming economy. Christmas season consumption is closely watched and measured as a harbinger of times ahead. This year, it may be pretty tough sledding.

It is no secret that much of our consumption of the last few years has been financed by borrowing, especially by leveraging home equity as housing prices rose. Now housing prices are

falling, as is home equity, and for millions, mortgages rates are rising, with higher payments that take a bigger bite out of disposable income. Some face foreclosure, but we all face the knowledge that our most valuable asset, our home, is less valuable this year, making us all a bit less willing, if not less able, to spend.

Mortgage market dysfunctions have exposed problems in credit markets across the board, so any kind of borrowing is harder now, and may be for some time to come. Regulators, investors and shareholders, to whom banks and lenders must answer, are going to be paying a lot more attention to lending practices and terms. More importantly, perhaps, investors may shy away from the secondary credit markets that provide liquidity and risk management for primary lenders (such as local banks), who will then have to be

more cautious with the less they have to lend.

It's no secret that food and fuel prices have been rising, putting more demands on our disposable incomes. Inflation may erode spending power even more. Demand for commodities – raw materials, agricultural products and fuels – has been rising as developing economies grow their industrial bases and nurture their own – huge and hungry – consumer classes. As this demand drives up commodities' prices, so the prices of goods tend to rise as well.

High fuel costs have put a premium on the development of alternatives such as ethanol, which is made, in the U.S., from corn. This rise in the price of corn has led to less acreage planted with wheat and soybeans, which has led to a rise in those prices. It has also caused a rise in the cost of corn-based livestock feeds, and to higher meat, egg and dairy prices. Of course, anything made with corn or corn oil, including a surprising number of processed foods, is more expensive too.

Rising oil prices are obvious

at the gas pump, but since our national and global economies rely on oil-based fuels for transportation, the price of just about everything is vulnerable to increasing fuel costs. As prices rise and credit dries up, disposable dollars simply may not go far enough to maintain our current level of spending.

funds, mutual funds and insurance companies) by clarifying lending practices and demanding accountability on all sides; credit will flow again.

The correction in real estate prices, as difficult as it is, will put us on firmer ground. In our market-based version of modern capitalism, we rely on markets to sort out our economic choices, so it is never good to have a market where prices clearly have eluded all sense of value, as implied by real demand and supply. Bubbles never serve us well, however painful their bursting may be.

As credit tightens, so may our focus on earned income. We have been distracted by bubbles in the stock market, the housing market, the credit market and in productivity itself, giving us the illusion that wealth, and its accompanying ability to consume, is an externality, a natural by-product of a market-based economy, easily enjoyed without real earnings or savings. This has happened before – the 1920's come to mind – and although many circumstances differ, history often reminds, if not exactly repeats. If so, we may be in for a bumpy ride.

*Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy, and on accounting and tax dilemmas. She has an MBA from Yale; she is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College.*

**We all face the knowledge that our most valuable asset, our home, is less valuable this year, making us all a bit less willing, if not less able, to spend.**

As consumption wanes, so do corporate profits, and then share values. Then our retirements and insurances, invested as they are in the stock markets, are losing – or at least not gaining – value, just like our homes. Seeing the ice cracking beneath us, we suffer what economists call the “reverse wealth effect”: our perceived loss of wealth makes us even less inclined to spend.

Eventually, tighter credit will help both borrowers and secondary market investors (pension

**Norwalk & You**  
The results can only be beautiful.

Finding that “perfect look” is now easy, thanks to two leading names in style and quality—Norwalk and Joe Ruggiero. Mix and match from a select assortment of arms, seats, back pillows and bases to create your own unique style, then pair it with any of their 1000+ fabrics. The result? Beautiful furniture that’s expertly crafted, delivered in about 30 days, and a perfect match with your lifestyle and personality. Let us help you imagine the possibilities.

**NORWALK FURNITURE**  
Design your own sofa at [www.norwalkfurniture.com](http://www.norwalkfurniture.com)

Now Available at ...  
**Mill River Furniture**  
SLEEPSOURCE™ MARISSA GALLERY

119 MAIN STREET, TAX FREE, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03561  
603-444-7378 • [WWW.MILLRIVERFURNITURE.COM](http://WWW.MILLRIVERFURNITURE.COM)

Steve Parker's  
Cut-Your-Own Fraser and Balsam  
**CHRISTMAS TREES**

**High Reach Farm**  
in North Danville  
Saturdays and Sundays  
between Thanksgiving  
and December 16  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
All our trees are  
100% organically grown!

**SPECTACULAR TREES  
AT A BARGAIN PRICE!**  
\$25 - tabletops \$10-\$15  
Plus FREE Brush  
Follow the signs  
from either North Danville  
or South Wheelock

Venue  
**John Thade**  
sings beloved songs of the world

Classic Broadway, Lehar Operettas,  
Stephen Foster, French, Irish  
& Italian Gems with pianist Dennis Buck

“Merits the room”  
- Steve Dyer, Burlington

“One of Vermont’s premier entertainers”  
- V/T Standard, Woodstock

Danville Town Hall  
December 15, 2:00pm  
Rte 2, Danville  
A Free Event

Reservations: 1-800-559-7070  
[www.johnthade.com](http://www.johnthade.com)

# Winona Gadapee Honored as Health Care Association Volunteer of the Year

Every Wednesday morning, come fair weather or foul, Winona Gadapee pulls up her bench and plays the piano for residents of the St. Johnsbury Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Rehab Center Activity Director Cindy Davidson says, "Winona has been doing this since 1999, a time when she had a relative of her own here as a resident. She played first for just a few people, then she invited a few more to join in and sing. Now our living room is full when she comes, and 'Music with Winona' is a regular and much-anticipated event each Wednesday from 10:30 to Noon.

"Faithfully she comes every week to play the piano, read a poem or tell a story. She greets each resident personally and makes sure they all have the music and words. I really think it's her intent to brighten every resident's day, and she does that and more. After she has finished playing she can be found heading

down the halls to visit other residents in their rooms. It's nothing to find her spending two hours or more with us every Wednesday."

On September 19 at the annual meeting of the Vermont Health Care Association Winona Gadapee was honored as the VHCA Volunteer of the Year.

Davidson says, "She's a wonderful piano player, but she does so much more. She often says that she gets more out of this than the residents do, but she has no idea just how alive we all feel on Wednesdays after she has been here. We are so grateful."



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Winona Gadapee of Danville volunteers as a piano player every Wednesday morning at the St. Johnsbury Health and Rehabilitation Center. In September, Gadapee was saluted as the Vermont Health Care Association Volunteer of the Year.

**DANVILLE SELF STORAGE**

26 units  
from 5X10 to 10X30  
Route 2 West,  
Danville, VT  
Clean, Dry, Inside Storage  
Your Own Lock & Key

Carmen Calkins  
PO Box 96  
Danville, VT 05828  
(802) 684-3865

**Vermont Home**  
Fine Log & Timberframe Homes  
**Specialties Inc.**

REAL LOG HOMES  
"So nice to come home to"

TIMBERPEG

**Holiday Sale**  
**20% Off Storewide**

Furniture ● Art  
Rugs ● Pottery  
Quilts ● Gifts  
Lighting

RT 2 West Danville  
(802) 684-1024

Make a Donation and

# Harvest the Joy

**Community Food Drive**

Especially around the holidays, we reflect and are thankful for all that we have. For most, it has been a good year, but there are those who are less fortunate living right in our own community. If we reap what we sow, then let us all share what we can, and harvest the joy that it brings.

**The Joy of Giving**

- Please donate a non-perishable food item to any CNB or LyndonBank office lobby to help those in need.
- Even one small item can make a big difference to a struggling family.
- Together, we can make it a joyous holiday season for all!

Community National Bank  
LyndonBank

Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC

# Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

**December 1, 2006:** Boisterous thunderstorms and torrential rain; what a peculiar way to begin December. The fields are saturated and sprouting "vernal" pools; rivers are overflowing. Our new chimney cap seems to be keeping the internal masonry dry. Heavy winds are creating "wrap around" rain so we're getting a good test of our new setup. On the positive side, the car got a very thorough Vermont car wash today. And of course, there's the old adage that you don't need to shovel the rain. Our friends in the Midwest are buried under a major snow dump. I'm sure we'll be experiencing the same soon enough.

**December 2, 2006:** Snow flurries highlighted by sunshine

are bringing us back to winter. Colder weather blew in overnight with temperatures falling until we reached the present 34°. Air aloft must be cooler to cause snowflakes to materialize. The ground is still not frozen which is good considering all the rain we've had. All that excess moisture pooling in the fields has been able to seep back into the ground. Nighttime temperature is 26° and falling. A light snow cover is reflecting back a bit of brightness in the muted moonlight. Last night I awoke to waves of light dancing on the ceiling. The strong winds must have kept the clouds moving across the moon, causing the unusual nocturnal light-show.

**December 5, 2006:** 12° this morning after a low of 9°. A few



Photo By: Jeff Gold

*"It's a good day to watch the mesmerizing falling snow."*

inches of snow whiten the ground. Last night's full moon spread a diffused but powerful light across the newly fallen snow. We spent some time in the woods with our neighbor's surveyor yesterday and among other things, he pointed out a small maple in the field that had been used as a rubbing tree for the deer. The brightly polished trunk showed that the bucks are actively rubbing off their velvet in preparation for mating.

**December 8, 2006:** It's a chilly 6° this morning with no sun to counteract the cold. We have about four inches of new snow, which gusty winds are rearranging into drifts. The forecast is for the wind to die down a bit as the day progresses. We have an open calendar for today so can sit out the weather and wait a bit before doing some snow rearranging of our own. Snow birds are returning. The first ones to grace our feeder are the slate-colored jun-

cos. The afternoon sun has finally appeared, bringing the thermometer all the way up to 14°. It's time to take advantage of the extra "warmth" of the sun and a slowing down of the wind to go out and shovel the stairs.

**December 14, 2006:** Temperatures in the mid-40's have rapidly brought down our beautiful snow cover. There are enough patches here and there to show that deer and moose have been through the back field and



**RTD ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES**  
NEWLY EXPANDED MULTI-DEALER SHOP

Glassware • Costume Jewelry • Kitchenware • Paper Items  
Linens • Silver Plated Items • Native American Items  
Skookums • Sterling Silver Jewelry • Tools  
Used & Vintage Furniture • Primitive & Country Decor  
*Much, Much More!*

37 Depot St. • Lyndonville, VT 802-626-3465  
OPEN Wed.-Sat. 10-5 • Sun. 11-4 • Monday by chance or appt.  
**ALWAYS BUYING.**

**Goodrich's Maple Farm**  
2427 US Rt. 2, Cabot, VT 05647  
(802) 426-3388  
goodrichsmple@yahoo.com www.goodrichmaplefarm.com

**AWARD-WINNING MAPLE SYRUP & PRODUCTS**

Retail Wholesale Mail Order

**Sugaring Equipment & Supplies:**  
Containers, Tanks, Vacuum Pumps  
and MUCH more.

Visit our expanded showroom for all your sugaring needs.

**New & Used Equipment**

Custom Tubing Installation & Consultation


Open Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays & Holidays

**wireless internet**

Available for immediate installation from our Crow Hill antenna in the St. Johnsbury / Danville area.

Call us today to schedule an installation  
**1-802-748-5866**  
or visit online at  
**www.kingdomwireless.net**





*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

*John 3:16*

*Amid all the rush and excitement, remember: Jesus is the reason for the season.*

**Merry Christmas from our families to yours.**

**THE CARPET CONNECTION**



woods. Deer have left calling card piles as well. The woods and logging road are easily accessible in heavy boots and a single ski pole. Freshly gnawed stumps show that the beaver are still active along the series of small ponds that drain from the main larger one on Walden Hill Road. I was serenaded by rasping chickadees, "singing" as they harvested the abundant dry seeds in the field. The early sunset is spreading a gentle pink glow across the horizon. It's only 4 o'clock and the sun has set.

**December 19, 2006:** Snow showers, backlit by the afternoon sun, come and go in spurts. The same effect creates a hazy, diffused light in the distant valleys. I'm in for the day, nursing a cold. One Pumpkin Hill performance is over, but the one in Danville is still to come. I'm taking it easy to conserve energy for the concert. Meanwhile we seem to be losing our solar gain so I'd better go stoke up the stove. Outside temperatures climbed up to 30°. Now with the sun disappearing, we're dropping back into the 20's. It's a

good day to watch the falling snow.

**December 20, 2006:** 18°. It's 7:25 and the sun is just cresting on the north side of Mt. Lafayette. A tiny cloud patch intensifies and colors the rising sun. Tomorrow is the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. Days will actually begin to lengthen as we approach the coldest winter months.

**December 22, 2006:** Mackerel clouds are setting the morning sky on fire. A telltale rosy glow spreads across our bedroom ceiling. Winter officially arrived at 7:22 p.m. yesterday. We celebrated the solstice, providing musical accompaniment for a joyous concert by Pumpkin Hill Singers. It's become a yearly tradition to top off Danville's festive Holiday on the Green with the concert. The audience had already sampled two hours of good food, drink and fellowship and was ready to settle in for the musical finale. A good time was had by all.

**December 29, 2006:** We finally have a few inches of snow

cover and are seeing single digit temps. Bright sunshine also prevails to sparkle up this wintery day. It's a good opportunity to snuggle up by the wood stove with a good book and drink lots of tea. We received a package with several special varieties of authentic English teas from our British friends. That along with a box of Florida grapefruit from my sister are helping to pamper me and my cold. A little TLC from a cat or two curled up on my lap is beneficial as well.

**December 31, 2006:** Fresh snow covers the ground. Clouds are rapidly moving across the sky, interspersed with promising patches of blue. The sun sits low at the horizon and sends a bright shaft of light through the thinning clouds while an icebow beams down a multicolored arcing light off to one side. Dramatic rays fan out from the sun to complete the morning drama.

*(To view an extended version of this month's Journal with additional photos, go to [www.jeffgoldgraphics.com](http://www.jeffgoldgraphics.com) and click on "The View from Vermont.")* ★

## Montpelier Soup Festival To Benefit Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services

An unusual fundraiser will occur in Montpelier on Saturday, December 1: a soup festival with a variety of soups, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and music by Montpelier's Damn Yankee String Band.

This event is timed to be the perfect lunch break for anyone doing a little shopping at the great stores in Montpelier: 11:30-1:30, at Bethany Church, 115 Main St. Attendees can eat their fill of soups and bread donated by local bakeries, and hot and cold beverages. Admission is \$7, only \$3 for children.

Proceeds will benefit Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services, which provides advocacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Vermonters experiencing any kind of crime or abuse. Their work includes one-on-one support for victims of domestic violence, training for service providers unfamiliar with communicating with deaf clients, and a host of other efforts.

Being a survivor is difficult enough, but being someone who is deaf and also experiencing abuse is that much more of an isolating condition. Often there are barriers to deaf women that women who can hear do not experience, and DVAS works to help them overcome those barriers. Money raised on December 1 will help DVAS expand its outreach work and help deaf victims gain access to the resources they need.

If you'd like to make a soup for the festival, you will get free admission to taste all the soups. For more information, please phone (802) 563-2669.

# Shop in Hardwick for the Holidays



## Contrary Mary's Arts & Crafts

35 South Main Street, Hardwick, VT 72-6200

Over 50 Vermont Artists & Crafts People!  
Redheart Yarn; Craft Supplies & Gifts

Open in December; Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Gifts, Jewelry, Clothing and much more!**

Bring this ad in  
and receive 20% off  
any 1 item in December!



## December

- 2 Holiday Open House at The Flower Basket, 156 Daniels Road, Hardwick. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 2 Santa Claus at the Hardwick Town House. 1-3 p.m.
- 2 Annual Holiday Sale and Party at GRACE, 13 Mill Street, Hardwick. Noon - 4 p.m.
- 8 Printmaking Classes with Phillip Robertson, Whitewater Gallery, River Street, East Hardwick. 9 a.m. to Noon
- 13 Hardwick Energy Action Resource Team, Learn how to save energy, Hazen Union Library. 7 p.m.



**Store Hours:**  
Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sun 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed December 25

**Buffalo Mountain Food Co-op**

Stock Up for All Your Holiday Needs

- Local Produce • Baked Goods
- Local & Fair Trade Gift Items

Take a break from shopping in our Co-op Cafe.

Shop Local, Buy Local

**Buffalo Mountain Food Co-op, Main Street, Hardwick**  
(802) 472-6020 [www.buffalomountaincoop.org](http://www.buffalomountaincoop.org)

## Morning Glory Essentials



**GIFTS:** Exquisite jewelry, crystals, minerals, herbal and aromatherapy products and more ...

REIKI available by appointment.

Tuesday-Friday 11-6 and Saturday 11-4

Janet A. Rymarski (802) 472-6155  
35 South Main Street, Hardwick

## OLD FRIENDS SHOP

Be sure to stop in while you are in downtown Hardwick doing your Holiday shopping!

Carl LOVES Christmas (and antiques). What a combination. Come see how much he has!

Gaie has a unique selection of winter clothing (adult/toddler), household items and other fun stuff.

Linda creates beautiful candles, jewelry, wonderful soaps and she also offers many other treasures.

We also have a wide variety of pre-owned books, games, children's toys, tapes, CDs and even LPs to help you through the winter.

Monday-Friday 11-5; Saturday 10-2  
35 South Main, Hardwick, VT



## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

**DECKING THE HALLS FOR 35 YEARS COME CELEBRATE WITH US!**

**DISCOUNTS • PRIZES • GOOD CHEER COME, ENJOY, AND EVEN SING... EDIE'S HOLIDAY KARAOKE**

FLOWERS, PLANTS, GIFTS, BALLOONS, YANKEE CANDLES AND OTHER MAGICAL THINGS...

## THE FLOWER BASKET

156 DANIELS ROAD, HARDWICK, VT  
(802) 472-3397 [www.theflowerbasket.biz](http://www.theflowerbasket.biz)

# Sometimes a Better Way Is with Horses

TERRY HOFFER

Bill Dunklee says he's loved horses since he was a kid. He laughs about growing up on a Vernon, VT dairy farm surrounded by animals, but it wasn't until he was in 4th grade that badgering his father about a pony of his own paid off. "One of the hired hands was always buying and selling horses, and finally my father asked him to keep his eye out for a pony for me. One night the hired man came back to the farm, and sure enough he had a young paint. We called him Pokey."

Dunklee credits the hired man's daughter with showing him how to handle horses - how to take care of them. He says, "I've had horses ever since."

Years later, Dunklee volunteered at High Horses, the therapeutic riding program in Corinth, and it was there that he saw first-

hand the inspiring and comforting side of an association with a horse. "I've always liked helping others," he says, "and I've always appreciated my horses, but I saw there that people with disadvantages, be they physical, emotional, social or simply learning disabilities, could find enormous self confidence and social skills in the company of a horse."

In 2004 Dunklee started working with Northeast Kingdom Youth Services as a member of the support staff in a residence for young adults. "The staff rotates with one of us there all the time," he says. "We teach basic life skills and try to keep the peace."

Gradually Dunklee began to imagine an opportunity for people who might gain from the kind of experience he had seen at High Horses. "With our horses and my work in human services,

my wife and I kept thinking we could provide therapy with horses in Barnet." Dunklee's wife teaches reading and writing in Danville, and, as an enthusiastic horse rider herself, she was as intrigued by the idea as her husband.

**"The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man."**

**- Will Rogers**

In May 2007, with much encouragement from others, Dunklee started his counseling part time. Since then he has worked with 12 very different people ranging in age from 4 to 55. "Some," he says, "are here for some level of therapy, and some are just here to learn skills of basic riding." For everyone it's a safe thing to talk about



Dunklee family photograph

From left: Katelynn Dunklee, Chloe Putnam and Lynn Dunklee are making the most of their quality time with the 6-year old gelding named Storm.

when they get home.

"They all learn about balance and the ability to communicate with an animal. The rhythm of the horses has a calming effect, and it prompts their interest in displaying affection. Everyone likes to talk to a horse, and they all seem to be in a better frame of mind after they have been here."

Dunklee sees his horses as offering an individualized program with adaptations to whatever

anybody wants or needs. "Everyone likes to trot," he says, "but we start by learning to be safe around horses. There is brushing and combing, and we review parts of the horse. Depending on the age level we might have note cards with words on them or bean bag games as exercises in developing eye hand coordination. Some ride independently, and some will have a sidewalker as long as

**Tasty Treats Candies**  
*"Keeping the North Country sweet for 44 years"*  
 We would like to take this time to thank our customers and to wish you and your families a **Very Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**  
 Serving you since 1961

**"Our 95th Year Serving the Greater Danville and Joe's Pond Community"**  
 Quality Groceries & Meats  
 Salads, Home-Baked Goods & Party Platters  
 Vermont Cheese, Crackers & Maple Products  
 (Orders Shipped Direct from the Store)  
 Call ahead for special holiday orders  
 Vermont Lottery, Megabucks, Powerball  
**Happy Holidays**  
 Justice of the Peace and Notary Public  
 Come visit us for Friendly Family Service  
**Hastings Store**  
 West Danville, VT (802) 684-3398

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**  
**RAMUNTO'S**  
**BRICK OVEN PIZZA**  
*A New York Pizza Tradition*  
**THE BEST HAND-TOSSED NEW YORK PIZZA**  
*We Guarantee It!*  
**2 16" NY Cheese Pizzas**  
 2 Liter Bottle of Soda & An Order of 6 Garlic Knots  
**ALL FOR \$19.99** Plus Tax  
 MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY ONLY  
**DINE IN OR ORDER OUT**  
**SERVING BEER & WINE**  
 Hours: Sun. 12-8 p.m. • Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. • Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
**RAILROAD STREET, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT**  
**802-751-8500 • 802-751-8525**

**NORTHERN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**Helping small business has a big impact.**

**The people at Passumpsic share that mission.**

As a non-profit economic development company, NCIC is devoted to making a positive impact on the vitality of local businesses. Passumpsic Savings Bank shares that commitment. When a small business needs financing to grow, the people at Passumpsic work with us to make it happen. With both traditional and SBA financing programs, Passumpsic Savings Bank has the expertise and tools to help businesses of all sizes.

By helping us help small businesses, Passumpsic Savings Bank makes a big difference.

David Keenan  
 Vice President of Lending  
 Northern Community Investment Corp.  
 St. Johnsbury, VT

**Passumpsic Savings Bank**  
 Your Partner in Financial Success  
[www.passumpsicbank.com](http://www.passumpsicbank.com)

Member FDIC



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Storm and Bill Dunklee talk things over between riders at their therapeutic riding program in Barnet.

they need it.”

But all in all it's about fun. Dunklee has orange cones in his riding ring and a wooden bridge over which the horses walk making loud hoof beats as they go.

Riders seem to love the sound of the bridge.

Some are better off with additional help, in which case Dunklee's wife or their daughter, Katelynn, join in. At times it's

hard to determine just who is getting the most pleasure from the experience. As Dunklee says, "We've always ridden together as a family, and if I could give up my day job and do this full-time

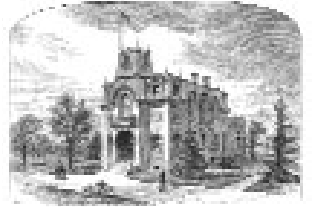
it would be the best. I get so much enjoyment out of watching kids smiling as they ride ... I'd do it for free if I could."

By the end of the year Dunklee plans to have an indoor 60' by 96' arena, which will allow his riders an extended season beyond that which is possible in his open ring in Barnet.

Dunklee calls his program SPUR for Students Pursuing Understanding Relationships. His emphasis is on having fun, but thinly disguised is the opportunity to learn responsibility, acquire social skills and have positive experiences. Everyone makes friends and accumulates some level of expertise with horseback safety and riding. Dunklee's riders gain self confidence and have a chance to talk to a good listener - that's the horse, of course.

He likes to say that horses are excellent therapists. "They listen to every word and they never repeat a secret."

For further information call Bill Dunklee at (802) 633-3826. \*



### St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Mon. & Wed.  
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tues., Thurs., & Fri.  
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sat.  
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Free  
Wireless Internet  
Available**



**SUNSHINE**

JEWELERS • BOUTIQUE • GALLERY

---

*Giftwrapping*

*Beautiful  
and always free*



17 EASTERN AVENUE, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 748-2933 VISA/MC/AMX

**A Classic  
Victorian  
Holiday  
in  
Downtown  
St. Johnsbury  
Saturday  
December 8**

**AquaRealm Aquarium & Pets**  
Your Local Full Line Pet Store  
[www.AquaRealmAquarium.com](http://www.AquaRealmAquarium.com)

**Bring this ad in  
Receive 20% off!**

Does not apply to aquariums & pet food.  
Good December 1-24

418 Railroad St. Unit #2 St. Johnsbury, VT 802-748-8858	Monday-Friday 10-7 Saturday 9-6 Sunday 12-5
--	---

D.J. Nelson  
12+ Years Experience  
[djnelson@Aquarealmaqarium.com](mailto:djnelson@Aquarealmaqarium.com)



Maternity & Children's Clothes  
Capezio Dance Shoes & Hanjkin Dance Wear  
Gifts & Furnishings  
Educational Toys



**FROGS & LILY PADS**

Fun and Innovative Toys.  
443 Railroad Street, Ste. 3 \* St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
802-748-2975

*Rose Knitting Parlor*

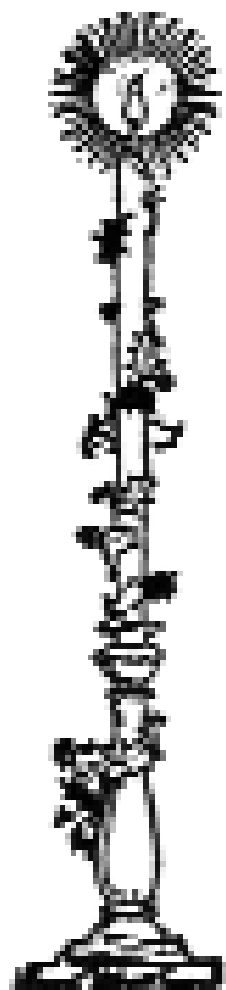
**A Full Service Knitting Store**  
378 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury

*Great selection of yarns, patterns,  
needles and accessories, art supplies,  
gift items and more.*

**Happy Holidays**

Workshops: Call for details.  
(802) 745-1073





**Happy  
Holidays**


from all of us at...

**Gauthier's  
Pharmacy, Inc.**

**Only Independent  
Pharmacy  
in St. Johnsbury**

*"Dedicated to  
your good health"*

415 Railroad St. • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 • (802) 748-3122



**MUCCA's Place**  
148 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury, VT 802-748-0020

**Quality Consignment Clothing**  
New and gently loved clothes  
for the whole family.



**Eastern Avenue Video Games**

XBox 360	Game Boy
XBox	DS
PS 1 & 2	PS 3
PSP	Game Cube

**Gift Certificates Available**

Now Accepting Fall and Winter Consignments  
Hours: Wednesday-Friday 9:30-5, Saturday 9:30-4  
**SIGN UP TO WIN A \$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE**

# There's a New Bakery on Railroad Street

(Continued from Page 1)

in St. Johnsbury. It's busy and we wanted plenty of visibility."

Last March they signed a lease for space near the specialty butcher shop known as R&J Meats, across from Caplans' Army Store on Railroad Street, and after remodeling and acquiring the necessary equipment they pushed open the door of the Village Baker on September 16.

Kathy says, "We spent a lot

of time looking at the stores on Railroad Street that have stayed. They offer unique products or services. They are a destination, an experience quite different from some sort of mall. They are not stocked with mediocre products in mediocre environments. They are an experience, where people who are looking for a range of choices and certain amenities will shop and that is what we hoped to create with our bakery."



Photos By: North Star Monthly

David O'Donnell-Leach turns on the light at The Village Bakery most mornings at midnight and pulls fresh bread like this out of the oven before dawn.

**Unique Gift Giving Ideas  
at  
Uniquity**

Boxed Christmas Cards,  
Clocks and Weather Instruments,  
American Girl Doll Clothes,  
Soaps, Candles, Lamps, Pottery,  
Unique Jewelry & Barrettes,  
Journals, Framed Prints, VT Calendars,  
Handblown Glass Ball Ornaments,  
Children's Books, Puzzles Galore,  
VT Syrup & Dressings  
and much much more!




**(802) 748-1912** 443 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT



**Porter & Craige  
Vintage**  
397 Railroad Street  
St. Johnsbury, Vt.  
Mon.-Sat. 10:15 a.m.-5:15 p.m. or by Appt. **802-748-5369**


**Everything Christmas!**

- Rustic antiques ● Midwest ornaments
- April Cornell table linens
- Beautiful candles ● Christmas Crackers
- Cozy cowgirl slippers
- Caswell Massey lotions



**NORTHEAST  
KINGDOM  
ARTISANS  
GUILD**

A fine craft cooperative  
featuring gifts from more  
than 100 Vermont artisans



**Beautiful**

In the Backroom Gallery:  
Members' Holiday Show  
November 20th- January 3rd  
Holiday Hours  
10:30 - 5:30  
EVERYDAY

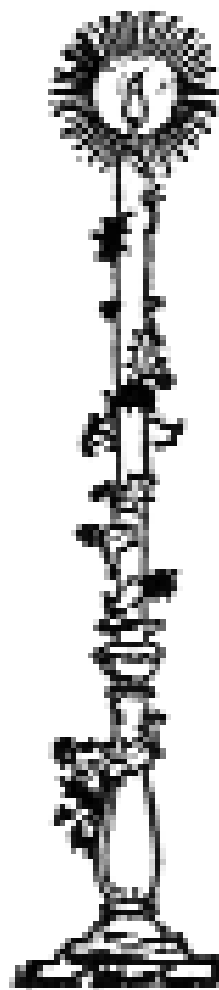
Under the Purple Awning at  
430 RAILROAD STREET, ST. JOHNSBURY 802.748.0158

Today the bakery is marked by a simple neon sign that spells out "Bakery," but the smell that seems to find its way out the

door to the sidewalk and street is all bread. David likes to greet customers by inquiring if they are seeking "sustenance or indulgence." Their display cases offer a wide choice of both.

Starting at midnight, David is getting ready with his daily fare. "I started with bread and pastries. The French are familiar with Parisian patisserie's and boulangeries. One specializes in sweet pastries the other in the more conventional breads. Realistically one person can't do both."

From one day to the next David's options will vary, but you can expect baguettes and batters - both crunchy French bread and a popular Tuscan loaf. He likes to make breads featuring butterwheat, multigrain, sourdough rye, olive, rosemary or honey wheat. You may find the French variant fougasse made with anchovies or an herb or the Italian ciabatta, distinctive for its large holes baked into the bread as the heat of the oven turns the moist dough to steam.



**Winter Fun Begins at  
Caplan's...** Open weeknights  
until Christmas

**Where you get toasty warm Clothing**

- Socks ● Hats ● Toques ● Long Johns ● Mitts ● Gloves
- Winter Boots for the Whole Family ● Fleece Wear
- Camping & Backpacking Supplies

**Remember our \*Gift Certificates\***  
*One Size Fits All*



- Columbia
- Johnson Woolens
- Woolrich
- Carhartt
- Duofold
- Wigwam
- Merrill
- Kamik
- Lacrosse

**Official Boy Scout Supplier**  
**Caplan's**

457 Railroad Street • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 • (802) 748-3236

**Come to Downtown St. Johnsbury  
on Saturday, December 8 to celebrate**

**All Day** Roasted chestnuts, cookies and hot apple cider will be available at the Railroad Street Marketplace. Carolers from local schools.

**9-1** Children can make a holiday gift at Railroad Street Marketplace. Parents: enjoy shopping while your child is supervised making a holiday gift!

**9:30-10** Santa rides down Railroad Street in horse-drawn cart to Welcome Center.

**10-12** Come see Santa in common area behind Allen's Kitchen & Bath.

**10-2** Horse-drawn wagon rides through downtown St. Johnsbury.

**10-2** Holiday Food Drive at Dunkin' Donuts.

**11-1** Bill Tobin plays the harp at Uniquity.

**1-3** Catamount Arts Open House and Free film, *Christmas Carol*.

**1-4** Holiday Open House at Fairbanks Museum.

**4-6** Holiday music at The Athenaeum.

**5-7** Griswold Truck at The Athenaeum.

**6-10** Ice skating at Main Street Park.

**6:30** Tree lighting at Arnold Park.

**A Classic Victorian Holiday**



Pasties are, as David promised, an experience. They are hearty and full of flavor and likely a pleasant change from the routine.

"The vision" David says, "is to be the place that people think of when they talk about 'the bakery.' We'll add new things, and maybe we'll take some away, but we'd like to become a regular habit."

There are already regulars, and it won't be long before, like the Fornax in Roslindale Square in Boston, people are backed up and waiting in line for the first choice at the Village Baker.

David Eyler owns the Millers Fare Café and Bakery in Littleton. As his customers will

attest Eyler knows plenty about good food and good bread. He says, "It's great to find an honest to goodness local bakery with a simple, tasty sandwich of the day on a homemade baguette. You won't find a huge selection and no, there aren't a lot of tables, but who cares? The food is great, and The Village Baker is a welcome addition to downtown St. Johnsbury."

Mike Stibelus owns R&J Meats two doors from The Village Baker. "Specialty food shops always seem to do well together. I go into the bakery every day, and I think they are going to be a great neighbor. ★

## Peacham Library

Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday  
10 a.m. - Noon

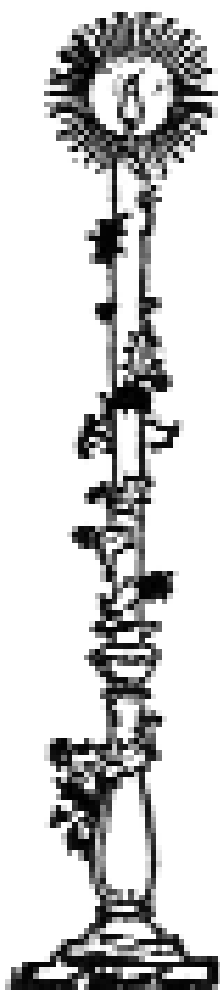
Tuesday and Thursday  
1 - 7 p.m.

On Fridays and Saturdays David likes to have challah, a traditional Jewish Sabbath bread braided and rich with eggs. But perhaps his signature offering, or at least the bread most called for to date, is his Black Forest loaf made with cranberries, raisins, coffee, cocoa and molasses in a base of cracked rye and whole wheat.

Among these breads or others like them at the Village Baker, you will find soups, great coffee and a daily sandwich, perhaps a croissant, or the truly wonderful pasties. Pasties, David says, are an invention of the United Kingdom with pastry crust rolled around such fillings as lamb, cheese and bacon, spinach and curried chicken.

The food is great, and The Village Bakery is a welcome addition to downtown St. Johnsbury."

- David Eyler,  
The Millers Fare  
Café and Bakery  
in Littleton.



Thanks to everyone  
for a wonderful year.  
**Knit on!**

Inside Uniquity at 443 Railroad Street  
St. Johnsbury, VT  
Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## All About Flowers

Dazzling... Fragrant...  
Glimmering...  
Magical... Blessed...

'Tis the season to gather the ribbon,  
the garlands, the greens, and stars...  
the fresh holly, boxwood, and more!  
All you need to bedazzle your home for the holidays.

Plus  
We've gathered a unique assortment of fine gifts  
for the season to make your holiday shopping fun!

Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
196 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
Phone/Fax (802) 748-5656 or (800) 499-6565

World-wide Wire Service

A Classic  
**VICTORIAN HOLIDAY**  
in  
Downtown  
St. Johnsbury  
Saturday, December 8

**Pōdō  
SHOES**

*This holiday season...*

*Wrap your feet in comfort and style!*

- ✿ Euro-Comfort footwear for men and women.
- ✿ Hard to find sizes, widths and brands.
- ✿ Handbags and wallets by Ameribag and Sven.
- ✿ Luxurious hosiery by Marcmarcs and Smartwool.
- ✿ Brooks running shoes.
- ✿ Red Wing work boots.
- ✿ Cozy Shearling boots by UGG and LaCanadienne



- ✿ Ariat Western boots.
- ✿ Cozy slippers by Haflinger, Daniel Green and UGG.
- ✿ Smartwool hats, gloves and scarves.
- ✿ Beautifully wrapped gift certificates.
- ✿ Test your shoes on our in-store treadmill.
- ✿ Personal attention, professional fit and great customer service.

**Pōdō  
SHOES**

418 Railroad Street, Suite 1 St. Johnsbury, VT  
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 AM-5 PM\*  
Closed Sundays \*Open late by appointment  
(802) 748-4500

'TIS THE  
SEASON  
TO SHOW  
HOW MUCH  
YOU CARE.

The holidays are the perfect time  
to express your feelings  
with a gift of fine jewelry

And because fine jewelry  
is a gift whose beauty lasts forever,  
they'll remember how much you care  
long after the holidays are over.

Fine Jewelry.  
When your feelings are for real.

**Kennedy's**  
Diamonds & Fine Jewelry  
Jim Kennedy, Jeweler

**Holiday Hours**

Monday-Saturday 9-5 (11/24-12/22)  
Sunday 11-5 (12/2-12/23)  
Evenings until 8 (12/10-12/21)

Member  
Jewelers of America, Inc.  
© 1988 Jewelers of America, Inc.

# Christmas Revels Return to Hanover

The ever popular Christmas Revels return to Hanover for the 33rd year. Revels North gives six performances of *A Celebration of the Winter Solstice: Music, Dance and Stories of Scandinavia & the Northlands*, from December 13-16 at the Hopkins Center in Hanover, NH just in time for the holiday season.

The Christmas Revels performances highlight the unique tradition-bearers from cultures across the globe. This year's production presents acclaimed musicians and dancers whose artistry evokes the spirit of the Nordic Lands.

As the days become ever shorter in Europe's dark and icy Northlands, the winter solstice finally arrives, when the days begin to grow in sunlight and warmth. On this special and joyous occasion, The Christmas Revels celebrate Yule traditions from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Karelia with the hypnotic magic of the Karelian Creation story from the great Finnish folkwork,

Kalevala. The story tells how the universe was born from a clutch of eggs, and of the long-awaited birth of the first man and musician, Väinämöinen.

The lively and enchanting folk music, pageantry, dances and rituals of Scandinavia come to life with the cast of The Christmas Revels, along with a host of special guests.

Catch the festive spirit and family fun with the Sattuma Karelian Folk Band; dance champions Karin Brennesvik, Tom Løvli and Sigbjørn Rua from Norway; Småjondølene a group of seven young dancers ages 15-20 from Norway; Nyckelharpa (Swedish keyed fiddle) player Leif Alpsjö from Sweden; and Grammy-nominated Hardanger fiddle (with four or five sympathetic strings running beneath the fingerboard serving to increase its sonority) player Loretta Kelley.

For information or ticket reservations call (603) 646-2422.



The Christmas Revels perform six shows in the Spaulding Auditorium at Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center for the Arts on Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m., Friday, December 14 at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 15 at 2 and 7 p.m. and on Sunday, December 16 at 1 and 5 p.m.



## the ARTS around

### December

- 1 Scrooge the Musical, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 1 Counterpoint, North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury.
- 1 Preservation Hall Jazz Band: Creole Christmas, Opera House, Barre.
- 1 Gopher Broke, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 2 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 2 Dane Zanes and Friends, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 2 VT Piharmonic Fall Concert, Opera House, Barre.
- 3 Yamoto: The Drummers of Japan, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 4 Flat Stanley, Opera House, Lebanon.
- 5 Yamoto: The Drummers of Japan with "Shin-On," Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 5 The Nutcracker, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 7-13 *Dan's Paris* (2006, France) [R] Director: Christophe Honoré. A joyful tribute to the French New Wave and an inspired retelling of *Framy and Zoey*, echoing Salinger's pair of novellas cannily and effortlessly. A domestic love story told in a

series of semi-abstract, quiet, intense moments - a slap, a phone call, a hug in the bathtub that tiptoe up to a climax both spectacularly and subtly emotional. Catamount Arts. St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2400.

- 7 Tracy Byrd, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 8 Patty Larkin, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 9 Nebraska Theater Caravan, "A Christmas Carol," Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 12 Hot Tuna, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 13-16 Christmas Revels, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 14 Julie Hardy, Morse Center for the Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 14 Cherish the Ladies, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 14 Vermont Fiddle Orchestra, Opera House, Barre.
- 14 The Calamity Janes, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 14-20 *Vanaja* (2006, India) [PG] Director: Rajnesh Domalpalli. The setting is a rural district of South India, where Vanaja lives with her shambling, alcoholic father in a rural district of South India. Life is only bearable because she makes her own way and dreams of dancing. Catamount Arts. St. Johnsbury.

- 15 Green Mountain Nutcracker, Opera House, Barre.
- 15 Cherish the Ladies and "A Celtic Christmas," Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 15 Ottomatic Slim, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 21-23, 26-27 *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song* (2007, US) [PG] Director: Jim Brown. Tribute to the legendary singer and composer Pete Seeger who always thought that music can be a force for good, and he has proved it by writing songs that have helped shape our times. Seeger says, "I want to turn the clock back to when people lived in small villages and took care of each other." Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 22 Cobalt Blue, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 28-30, January 1-3 *Gypsy Caravan* (2006, US) [NR] Director: Jasmine Dellal. Five bands from four countries unite for the World Music Institute's Gypsy Caravan, a 6-week concert tour across North America and Europe where the musicians astound every audience they meet. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 31 New Year's Eve Buffet with Bow Thayer and the Perfect Train Wreck.

## The Village Post

*Fine Apparel · Home Decor*

**Located across from the Danville Green**

**Hours:**  
**Wednesday - Friday: 11 - 5**  
**Saturday: 11 - 3**

**(802) 684-3305**  
**15 Hill Street**  
**PO Box 245**  
**Danville, VT 05828**

[HISTORIC PRESERVATION]

## S.A. FISHBURN

[CUSTOM CABINETRY]  
 [ARTICULATED DESIGN]  
 [LOCATING]

We bring years of experience and a passion for excellence to everything we do. Exact and professional, straight forward and honest, skilled and quietly confident. Call us for a consultation.

S.A. FISHBURN, INC.  
 DANVILLE, VERMONT 05828  
 802 684-2524  
 fish@kingcon.com

## CATAMOUNT ARTS

ARTS BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Performances
- Films
- Galleries
- Jazz Concerts
- Lectures
- Classes
- Video Library
- Special Events

Museum Temple 115 Eastern Ave., St. Johnsbury, VT

**Bringing Art to the Northeast Kingdom**  
**WWW.CatamountArts.org**      **(802) 748-2600**



## Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



Unlike stints, chores were never done. That is, you did the dishes after one meal. Then came another meal and the dishes were to do all over again. You set the table for dinner and supper. Deedee and I both did the same chores, but she was older and faster and made sure I didn't skimp my share of the load. Before Tracy cut a door that led from the kitchen to the dining room, we had to carry all the dishes through the living room to reach the dining room. And when we cleared the table, back through the living room we went.

It was not that we had hard chores, it was just that they came again and again. And a cardinal rule was "You can't go out to play until you've finished your chores."

I did not relish filling the woodbox, another of those everlasting chores. In the kitchen wall on the left side of the wood-burning stove was an opening. It had woodwork around it, and a small door filled the space. Maw opened the door, reached in and pulled out sticks of wood to keep her fire going. When she baked, she filled the firebox and fed the flames until her oven reached the proper temperature. She also used a lot of wood when she heated water for washing or baths.

Maw took the wood from inside the wall. It was our responsibility to fill the box on the outside. I don't know dimensions of the box. It seemed to take an awful lot of sticks to fill it. The woodbox had a rectangular base. Its front was nearly as tall as I before it slanted toward the kitchen wall. A hinged flap covered part of the slant and supposedly kept cold air from entering the kitchen. When we had to fill the woodbox, we raised the cover and leaned it

against the wall.

In the fall, Dad and the hired man, when Dad had one, filled the wood shed that served the kitchen. Wood for the kitchen stove was sawn into certain lengths on the circular saw. With a "zzzip" "zzzip" it cut through slender branches. Thicker pieces had to be split, so they'd burn faster. A walkway led around the piles of sticks, so we could fill the lamps from the kerosene can that stood on a shelf in a corner or go to the privy or reach the car.

We stretched as high as we could to take the sticks off a pile and ranged them along our arms. My arms were shorter than Deedee's, so I could not carry as much in one armload. Hence she always finished her share before I did.

We couldn't just dump our load when we got to the woodbox. The sticks had to be piled neatly, so Maw could grasp an end and slide it out easily. Deedee was quick to notice if my contributions were carelessly thrown in and quick to let me know I'd better place the wood in a better arrangement.

In the fall and winter, when we had on heavy coats or sweaters, filling the woodbox was not too hard. Our clothes cushioned the sharp edges of the sticks that had to be split. Round sticks were not too bad, although bits where limbs had been chopped off would cut in.

Spring and summer the woodpile would have dwindled. Just a short step across the floor to the remaining stacks so we could load our arms high. Unfortunately, bigger loads meant heavier weight against a thin sleeve, not to mention slivers under tender skin. Also, in warm weather, there were so many interesting things to do outside we wanted to finish our chores as fast as we could. Maw complained that we just dumped her fire wood any old way. She had enough to do without our making her tasks harder.

I don't remember when Maw had the cook stove changed from wood- to oil-burning. There were two burners under the front rimers. Oil fed into the base of a wick. By turning a small knob, you controlled the height of the flame. The whole arrangement was smelly and not too efficient—the oven never got hot enough—and the wicks had to be replaced and the base cleaned every so often. Maw depended on Spicer Main, our mailman, to do that chore.

Maw would never admit it, but

she must have missed burning wood in her cook stove. Over many years she mastered the art—and it was an art. She knew how to build a fire and just what kind of wood to burn for baking or frying. However, we older girls were not around to fill the woodbox. Besides, Mimi had just such an up-to-date heating arrangement in her kitchen.

cool space. It was much better than putting things in the pantry, for when you opened the pantry door, all the cold air that had blown down from the North Pole blew along the kitchen floor. The woodbox worked just fine in colder weather. During the winter things froze solid if they were left too long. In the summer, Maw's storage space in the woodbox became much too warm to keep food.

And thereby hangs a tale. I know it only third hand, for Patty was the unfortunate girl who had to clean up the mess. One Christmas, when we bigger girls were no longer at home, Maw slid the left-over turkey into the woodbox—and forgot it! When warm weather came, a horrific odor drew attention to the forgotten bird. Dad and Patty discovered the carcass, still on the platter, long past its sell-by date and in the final stages of decay (I'm reminded of Miss Haversham's table in *Great Expectations*).

Dad had a tender stomach (Remember his fiercely smoking his corn-cob pipe while he emptied the old privy?) Although he wanted to help Patty, he kept gagging and left for other parts before he threw up. Patty had to carry the remains out to our dump and dispose of them. Patty's memories of the woodbox are vivid, but they have nothing to do with keeping it filled.

**One Christmas, when we bigger girls were no longer at home, Maw slid the left-over turkey into the woodbox and forgot it!**

The old woodbox was redundant. Its place, out in the shed, meant the interior was cooler than the kitchen. So Maw turned it into a place to store food, for until we got electricity on the farm, Maw had no refrigerator, not even an ice box. A few boards placed judiciously made a shelf at the level of the little door in the kitchen. All Maw had to do was open the door and place milk or leftovers in the

### Danville United Methodist Church

"The biggest little church on the Green"

Sunday December 23 at 9:30 a.m. "The Faces of Christmas" an intergenerational worship experience

Monday December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Lessons, Candles and great Music

Sunday December 30 at 9:30 a.m. Year End Reflections - A Lay Worship Service

Rev. Henry E. Cheney

684-3389 office

Need a ride?

Call Steve 684-3484

Sunday Worship and Fellowship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School During Worship Service

### Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

from Dick, Amy, Mike, Jenn and Emma



For all your insurance, call

**Richard P. Barrett**

309 Portland Street, Suite 102

St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

(802) 748-5224

• Savings  
• Service  
• Satisfaction

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES

• Convenient Payment Plans

St. Albans | Fairfax | Jeffersonville | Johnson | Hyde Park | Morrisville | Stowe | Hardwick | Lyndonville | St. Johnsbury | Littleton

Bailu/Su Ryegele Presbyterian Church 803-584-3140  
Danville ECC Food Shelf 802-894-2193  
Danville Senior Action Center 802-684-3903  
East Hardwick Hardwick Dinner St. John's 802-472-3321  
East Ryegele West Barret St. Meals NEKCOA 802-633-4104  
Greensboro Bend Hardwick Kitchen 802-533-2329  
Hardwick Area Food Pantry 802-472-5979  
Lyndonville Darling Inn Meals 802-626-8700  
Lyndon Food Shelf 802-626-5586  
Sheffield Food Pantry 802-626-9643  
St. Johnsbury Kingdom Community Services 802-751-6581  
Northwest Kingdom Community Action 802-748-6040  
Pleasant Street Baptist Church 802-467-8332  
Sutton Lyndonville USDA Commodities 802-626-5196  
West Burke Pilgrim Manor Meal Site 802-467-3423

## Piece on earth.

During the Holiday season, we would like to encourage you to consider joining us and taking part in donating to your local foodshelf. If you don't know where your local food shelf is located, see the list at the left, or you can contact the Vermont Food Bank at (800) 585-2265 or on the web at [www.vtfoodbank.org](http://www.vtfoodbank.org).

For those who are able and willing to help a neighbor, supporting your local foodshelf makes a real difference in people's lives.

Simple, isn't it?

# Union Bank

Banking. Simplified. [www.unionbankvt.com](http://www.unionbankvt.com) Member FDIC



### Memory Tree of Barnet

Return to: c/o Stuart Gates, 279 West Main Street, Barnet, VT 05821

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print, thank you!

Make Checks Payable to: Presbyterian Church of Barnet

## 11th Annual Memory Tree to be lit in memory of CAROL CLARK

at the Presbyterian Church of Barnet located in West Barnet and serving members and friends in Barnet Center, West Barnet and Beyond.

Anyone may purchase a bulb by donation in memory of a friend or loved one.

Funds raised will be used for the purchase of a new furnace.

Memorial Service, December 23 at 10 a.m.

Refreshments will be provided following the Lighting of the Tree and the Memorial Service



# No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

There is no better way to fight the winter doldrums than to get in the spirit of the holidays. I put up a glittery tree in our living room, string lights on the porch rail and try to add a little sparkle to everything I do in December. It takes away the sting of the ice, snow, darkness and cold that we fight this time of year.

This attitude prevails in the kitchen as well. Cookies, sprinkled with colored sugar and silver pearls are put on plates with candy canes, bows and tinsel to give to friends and neighbors, and desserts for special parties are made to a higher standard.

I think a Buche de Noel (Yule Log) is the ultimate culinary realization of this holiday fanfare. It's a dazzling and delicious way to put

anyone in the spirit of the season. One look at this chocolate extravaganza is enough to make you sing the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

And, what is this amazing confection? It is a rolled chocolate sponge cake, filled with mocha buttercream, coated with a chocolate ganache and arranged on a platter to resemble a Yule Log. Sprinkled with white chocolate "snow" and surrounded by meringue "mushrooms" or silver leaves it is a most spectacular dessert.

Create one of these masterpieces of baking for your holiday party or serve one on Christmas or New Years. It takes a little time and thought, but it's worth the effort.

Here's how:

## BUCHE DE NOEL

Give yourself two days to put this dessert together. One day to make the filling and ganache frosting (ganache needs to sit overnight to achieve spreadability) and one day to make the cake and assemble the finished product. You don't need to refrigerate the cake, but if you do, make sure it is served at room temperature.

### Make the Ganache

- 3 cups heavy cream
- 1½ packages bittersweet chocolate chips or 18 ounces chopped bittersweet chocolate

In a large saucepan bring the cream to a boil and simmer for about 5 minutes. Be careful (cream has a tendency to boil over the sides of even the tallest pot) so tend to the pan the whole time. And, make sure to use heavy cream - it won't work with anything else.

Put the chocolate chips or finely chopped chocolate into a mixing bowl and pour the hot cream over the chocolate. Gently stir together until the chocolate is thoroughly melted and the mix is velvety smooth. Set aside with a towel over the top of the bowl. The

ganache will need to sit overnight (at room temperature) to achieve the proper texture.

### Make the Filling:

- ¾ lb butter (3 sticks) at room temperature
- 1½ lb confectioners' sugar
- ¼ cup cooled espresso or strong black coffee
- 2 tablespoon cocoa

Put the warm coffee in a small bowl, and add the cocoa. Mix until well blended and set aside to let cool. Beat the butter (make sure it is at room temp) with an electric mixer for a minute. Slowly add half the sugar beating after each addition. Add the cooled mocha mixture and the remaining sugar. Beat until very creamy and light. If it seems too soft, add a little more sugar. It should be a nice creamy frosting consistency. Cover and save next to the ganache. Leave both these frostings at room temperature overnight.

Note: You can make these frostings a week ahead of time if you want and store them in the refrigerator - but you have to make sure they are at room temperature when you use them. It takes about 12 hours for them to come back to room temperature. Do not put them in the microwave to achieve

this, you will end up with a melted mess.

**One look at this chocolate extravaganza is enough to make you sing the Hallelujah Chorus.**

### Make the Cake:

This is a sponge cake or genoise baked in a jelly roll pan (as close to 10"x16" as possible.) Lightly butter this pan and line with buttered waxed or parchment paper. Preheat the oven to 400°. You will need a clean dish towel the size of the jelly roll pan available.

- ¾ cup cake flour
- ¼ cup cocoa
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 6 eggs separated (at room temperature)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar

Put the flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt in a bowl, and whisk until combined. Set aside. Beat the egg yolks with an electric mixer until thick - gradually add ¾ of the granulated sugar until the mixture is thick and lemon colored. It should fall in ribbons from the beaters. Set aside.

In a clean bowl with clean beaters whip the room temp egg whites at high speed until foamy. Add the rest of the sugar by the tablespoon full, and continue beating until stiff peaks form. Set aside.

**There is still time...  
a handmade gift is a gift from the heart.**

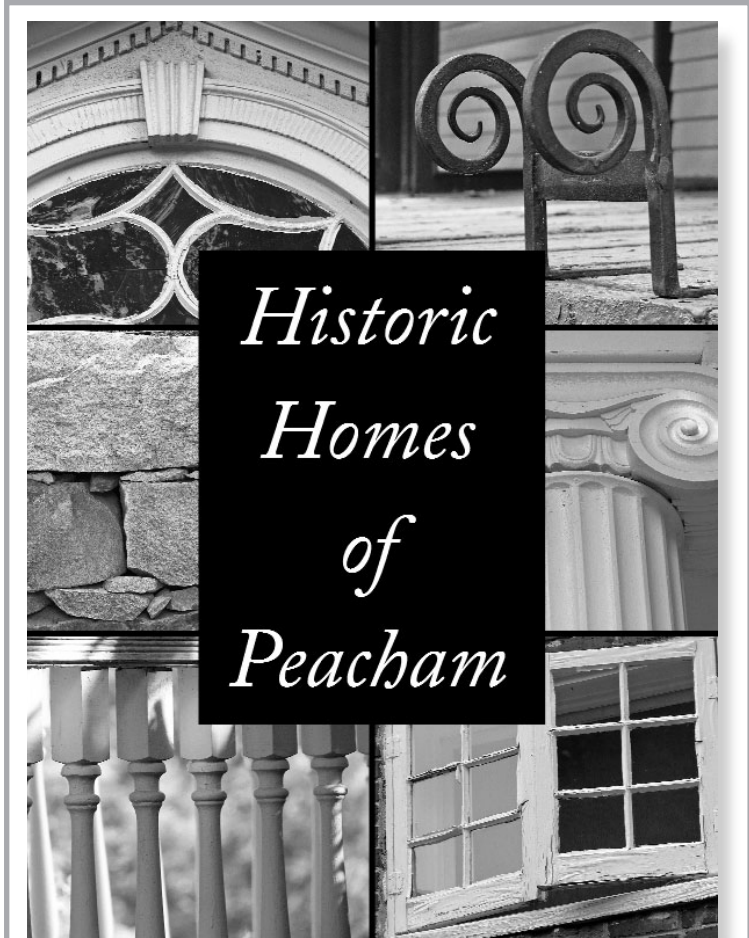
## FABRICTOWN

**Yarns & Knitting Supplies • Counted Cross Stitch  
Quilt Supplies • Fabrics • Home Dec. Fabrics**

61 Depot Street  
Lyndonville, VT 05851  
Tues.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



Jan Nutting, Owner  
**(802) 626-9367**



*Historic  
Homes  
of  
Peacham*


Just in time for the holidays...

*Historic Homes of Peacham* published by the Peacham Historical Association details over 100 homes in Peacham built before 1900.


The three year project combines over 200 historic and recent photos, architectural details and tales of the historic lineage for houses ranging from the classic New England Farm House to the grand style of the Greek Revival period.

**\$30 for soft cover and \$40 hard cover**  
(shipping is extra).

Join us for an initial book launch on Sunday, December 2 from 2-5 pm at the Peacham Library. For information, please call Mel Reis, PHA President at (802) 592-3079.




RESTAURANT  
**GOODFELLAS**  
TAVERN



## MERRY CHRISTMAS to All from All of Us at Goodfellas

*Serving Good Food with Good Friends*

**ROUTE 2, DANVILLE, VT • 802-748-4249**




Dr. Mark A. Leipter  
Dr. Richard Leven  
Dr. Stephen Feltus  
Dr. Rebecca Hogan  
Dr. Andrew Ishak  
Peter Boyle, Optician

## Give the Gift of Sight this Holiday Season

**Purchase a Gift Certificate  
valued at \$100 for only \$75 or  
Purchase a Gift Certificate for \$50 and pay only \$40.**

Some restrictions apply. Offer Expires December 24, 2007



**Optical Expressions**

**Berlin Mall**  
282 Berlin Mall Rd., Unit 4  
802 223-2090

**Green Mountain Mall**  
US 5, St. Johnsbury Center  
802 748-3536



Fold the flour mix slowly into the egg yolk mix until thoroughly combined and then lightly fold in the beaten egg whites. This is gentle work - you want everything to be integrated but you don't want to deflate the mix.

Spread the batter evenly in the paper lined and buttered jelly roll pan. Make sure to get the mix into all the corners. Put in the preheated oven and cook for 10 to 12 minutes. When the tester comes out clean in the middle it is done. Do not overbake.

While the cake is baking lay the dish towel on a flat cookie sheet and coat with the powdered sugar. Rub the sugar into the top of the cloth. Leave on the flat surface.

When the cake comes out of the oven cover the cake with the dish towel - sugar side on the top of the cake. Then put the cookie sheet on top of the towel and flip over to get the cake out of the pan. Peel off the baking paper, and gently roll the cake in the towel to resemble a jelly roll. You will roll from the 10" side of the cake. The powdered sugar will keep the cake from sticking to the towel.

Leave like this (with the towel) until it is cooled and you are ready to fill it and frost the "log."

**Assemble the Cake:**

Gently unroll the cake from the towel (Don't worry if it doesn't flatten out completely) and don't force it. Spread the mocha buttercream over the cake and reroll the cake with the filling into a jelly roll "log."

Cut about 2-3 inches off of one end of the roll and make a slight diagonal cut off the end of that small piece. On the platter you will use for presentation, attach the diagonal edge to the longer roll with some of the filling to resemble a branch coming off the log.

Frost the entire log and branch

with the chocolate ganache. You can rake a fork across the ganache to get it to resemble bark if you wish.

I usually shave some white chocolate over the top of the log and on some of the platter to look like snow and add a few raspberries for color. You can use silver leaves, evergreens or leaves you have collected to give a woodsy effect to this extraordinary dessert. If you want to take it even further you can use marzipan or meringue mushrooms as a garnish.

**Variations on a theme:**

Fill this cake with a caramel, coconut and pecan - German chocolate type filling.

Use a cherry and chocolate filling for a log from the Black Forest. I have even seen a gingerbread log with cinnamon icing.

Good Luck with all your kitchen endeavors this holiday season, and don't forget the members of the community not as fortunate as you. Keep track of your friends and neighbors, those who are elderly and infirmed or those without extended family. In this fairly small community we want every one to be warm and well fed this season. ✨



**Pope Notes**

Dee Palmer,  
Library Director

Please stop in for Holiday on the Green on Thursday, December 20 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. We will be serving lots of delicious goodies and punch and would love to see you. Be sure and notice our new lighting which was paid for by money left to the Pope Library from Father John Bruder. We decided that since Father John was such a bright light in our community that we would use his donation to brighten up the library. Now we just need to paint the ceiling...

This year our "Giving Tree" will be devoted to sending "care packages for the mind" to soldiers deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq. We will participate with an organization called "Books for Soldiers" and send packages of books, DVDs, music and other needed items to our soldiers. Donations will be used to purchase the books and to pay for postage. We will have names, addresses and specific requests from soldiers and also a list of suggested items to include with the care packages. We welcome your support.

ber. Please contact me if you would like to serve as a trustee or as a "friend" of the library.

We have many new books and several new DVDs in our collection. Our latest book acquisitions include: *Felt Frenzy* by Brack, *Knitting Without Tears* by Zimmerman, Peter Reinhart's *Whole Grain Breads*, *Book of the Dead* by Cornwell, *Celebrity Detox* by O'Donnell, *Away* by Bloom, *The Quilter's Legacy* by Chiaverini and *Run* by Patchett. Come in and check them out!

**From the Children's Room**

The last story hour for this session is on December 10 and will resume on January 14. Come in and browse through our extensive selection of holiday books. We also have many new books and CDs in our Young Adult collection. The YA center will close for school vacation on Friday, December 21 and reopen on Wednesday, January 2.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



**The Old Crow Craft Farm**

"It's a Country Shop"

Feather Trees, Hooked Rugs, Candles, Dolls, Placemats and other Handcrafted Things. Collectables and Antiques.

3 miles from Cabot Village. 2 miles from Walden Fire Station.

Route 215, Foster Drive, Cabot, VT (802) 563-2526

Open: Wed-Sat, 9-5 and most Sundays, call; Closed: Mon & Tues.

**Will be closed December 23 - March 1**

**DANVILLE SERVICE CENTER**  
Route 2, Danville Village 684-3481

See us about **WINTER TIRES** including our complete line of: **Cooper, Remington, Hankook and Kelly tires**



Merry Christmas

Thank you for your business this year.

HOURS: 7-5 Mon. thru Fri. • 8-1 Sat. • Mechanic on Duty

WWW.NVRH.ORG

We treat you like family.

NORTHEASTERN VERMONT REGIONAL HOSPITAL

**Healthier Living Workshop**

A FREE PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Do you have a chronic health condition that is affecting your life? Would you like to change your life for the better?

**You will learn:**

- how to deal with frustration, pain, fatigue, and isolation
- exercise techniques for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance: use of medications
- how to communicate with health professionals, family, and friends
- nutrition... and more!

You will receive a 300 page booklet and relaxation audio tape. Any adult with one or more chronic conditions can participate. A friend or care giver is welcome to attend with you.

**Session 1: Mondays**  
January 7 To February 11  
9:30 a.m. to noon,  
NVRH CONFERENCE ROOM B

**Session 2: Thursdays**  
April 24 To May 29  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
CORNER MEDICAL, LYNDON

**Session 3: Fridays**  
May 2 To June 6  
9:30 a.m. to noon  
NVRH BUSINESS CENTER 127

10 Participant Minimum

**Healthier Living Workshop**

A FREE PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TO ENROLL CALL 802 748-7590 OR MAIL THIS TO: LAURAL RUGGLES NVRH, HOSPITAL DRIVE, ST. JOHNSBURY

PLEASE CHECK WHICH SESSION YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING

I will be attending:

Session 1  
1/7/08 2/11/08

Session 2  
4/24/08 5/29/08

Session 3  
5/2/08 6/6/08

*The Wine Gate*



**WINE BAR**

Wine, Liquor & Micro Beers  
Dinner & Tapas Menu  
Thurs, Fri. and Sat. 5 p.m. till closing

**LUNCHES**

Specialty Panini Sandwiches,  
Soups and Salad.  
Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Take Out Available

\*\*\* Available for Private Parties \*\*\*

At the foot of Eastern Avenue next to the Welcome Center and Railroad Station in St. Johnsbury

Bring this coupon and get a FREE DESSERT with your entree.

**(802) 748-3288**

# Come to the Table

Denise Brown



In our last episode, we rather gloomily assessed the new lay of the culinary land since the lovely hatchlings flew the coop. Despair, it seemed, tugged at the hem of our very apron; despondency hung over the chilled embers of the hearth; misery awaited us in the unfolding evening hours.

Would our appetite for pomegranates even cautiously return? Could our inner child overcome her long-seated abandonment issues, buckle up her Mary Janes and find her way to the bus stop? Would we ever again seek sustenance and enlightenment at the helm of our trusty Whirlpool range?

In a nutshell, you betcha.

Alas, I have yet to uncork the

proverbial champagne, now that my children are off to college. I have not staged a pole dancing party, traded in the Subaru for a Miata, or submitted to a painful inking of a multicolored monarch on my lower back.

Sad but true. I am lagging perhaps far behind the empty-nester learning curve. The transition has been slow. But I have resurrected the pleasure of pacing back and forth between chopping block and stovetop, of selecting the perfect pork loin slices and two green apples with which to braise them, of cutting open a grapefruit heavy with tart, ruby juice to serve along with a dish of vanilla yogurt.

In the process, I've gathered a bit of reconnaissance. God forbid

any of you should endure the silly, paralyzing spate of navel-gazing I stumbled into this fall. I hope this dispatch from the front will be of some service to those stepping onto untested terrain.

Popcorn is not a meal. Your anorexic roommate from graduate school two decades ago was wrong. You've got to eat.

You are allowed only one serving of dry cereal per day. And important as they might be, fiber content and omega acids should not be your only considerations when judging the character of a breakfast companion. Your taste buds have feelings, too.

Civilized people do not eat directly out of a tin can, except in the aftermath of a plane wreck in the Andes. And as nostalgic as your desire for those little circles of pasta in pale pink tomato sauce might seem at 6 p.m. after a long day, consuming them for supper will only leave you unwrapping squares of semi-sweet baking chocolate an hour later when you think the cat isn't watching.

The dinner hour is no longer defined by the clock. Eat the main meal of the day any time you damn well please.

Make friends again with pota-

toes. And never underestimate the things you can do with an onion.

Do not bake an entire chicken for yourself on Sunday, rationalizing you will eat from it over the course of the week to come. This is what will happen: on Monday, you'll smugly prepare a perfectly fine chicken sandwich on whole wheat toast with a few leaves of iceberg lettuce and the tiniest bit of mayo. On Tuesday, still ensorcelled in your superiority, you'll soldier through a reheated leg and lightly buttered potato wedges. On Wednesday, you'll search the pantry for a package of instant gravy to bathe the dry breast meat slices and wonder if the stuffing has gone bad. On Thursday, you write hate mail to Frank Perdue. On Friday, you'll strip the carcass of the desiccated remains, toss them all to the schnauzer and vow to eat more fish sticks. And nobody but Mrs. Paul wants that.

A bowl of steamed cabbage is good for you. So is 20 percent tithing, a six-month third-world volunteer stint, and making peace with your ex's new wife, a 19-year-old fashion model. Sometimes, "good for you" just doesn't cut it. Bring on the carafe of pinot noir, the bloody rib eye sprinkled with

sea salt, the chocolate decadence of choice.

Last but not least, enjoy the freedom to experiment, if only because hiding the occasional inevitable disaster is so much easier. Case in point: I'm not sure what possessed me to bake the cornbread-broccoli-cheddar casserole last week, but no teenage sensibilities were ruffled, and the dog found the leftovers utterly delicious.

**Your taste buds have feelings, too.**

## Tapas for One

(With apologies to Richardo.)

Cooking for one's own self can be a source of delight, but it helps to keep the creative pump primed. If possible, beg, borrow or neglect to return to the library a copy of Rozanne Gold's out of print gem, *Little Meals: A Great New Way to Eat and Cook*. Another helpful book, Arthur Swartz's *What to Cook When You Think There's Nothing in the House to Eat* will remind you of the myriad ways in which pantry staples such as tuna, eggs, pasta and beans yield satisfying meals in a hurry.

For out of the ordinary inspiration, though, try Fiona Dunlop's *New Tapas: Culinary Travels with Spain's Top Chefs*. I admit, I am unlikely to whip up the cuttlefish with garlic or ostrich carpaccio, but this beautiful book, showcasing small meals served at bars, illustrates the myriad ways that food nourishes the soul as well as socia-

(See **Tapas for One** on Page 19)

## Danville Restaurant & Inn

Casual Dining • Lodging • Fully Licensed

### FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Chicken Pie Buffet \$9.95

### SATURDAY NIGHT BUFFET: \$11.95

Breakfast: Tuesday - Saturday 7 - 11 a.m.

Lunch: Tuesday - Friday 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Dinner Reservations are a must.

Main Street, Danville VT

(802) 684-3484

Steve A. Cobb, owner  
Justice of the Peace & Notary Public  
Weddings/Civil Unions  
By appointment or by chance



## THURSTON AUTO SALES

Ernie Thurston and Bill Dimick

**Used Cars and Trucks  
BUY - SELL - TRADE  
Appraisal Services**



P.O. Box 12  
1320 Memorial Drive  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
thurstonauto@earthlink.net

Cell: 802-922-4062  
Office: 802-748-6373  
Fax: 802-748-2815

**"DADS" GOT GAS**

ALL SIZES PROPANE CYLINDERS FILLED

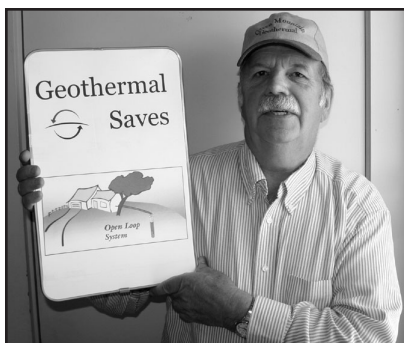
MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
SATURDAY 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
SUNDAY 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**802-748-4208**

**DADS 4 BY TOOL & SUPPLY**

22 Memorial Dr., St. Johnsbury, Vt.

- Save on your heating costs  
Annual costs are half of that for oil or propane.
- Control your humidity
- Air condition your home
- Get hot water free



Contact Jim Ashley at

**Green Mountain Geothermal**

for a free analysis of the costs and benefits for your home.

**Green Mountain Geothermal**

**(802) 684-3491**

## Are You Having Trouble Affording the Prescription Drugs You Need?

### Our Health Centers May Be Able to Help

Our offices offer discounts on many of the most common prescription drugs. This discount is **available to all our patients**. In addition, for those with limited incomes, we apply an additional discount if you qualify for our sliding fee program. For more information, call for an appointment.

#### Concord Health Center (802) 695-2512

Sarah Berrian, MD (Pediatric, Adult and Obstetrical Care)  
Mary Ready, MD (Family Medicine and Obstetrical Care)  
Susan Taney, Nurse Practitioner (Adult Care)  
Donna Ransmeier, Behavioral Health Counseling

#### Danville Health Center (802) 684-2275

Tim Tanner, MD (Pediatric and Adult Care)  
Sharon Fine, MD (Pediatric and Adult Care)  
Mariel Hess, Nurse Practitioner (Pediatric and Adult Care)

#### Caledonia Internal Medicine (802) 748-5174

Frank Meierdiercks, MD (Internal Medicine)  
Thomas Ziobrowski, MD (Internal Medicine)  
Elaine Robinson, Nurse Practitioner  
Betsy Fowler, Behavioral Health Counseling

#### St. Johnsbury Family Health Center (802) 748-5041

Dana Kraus, MD (Family Medicine and Obstetrical Care)  
John Ajamie, MD (Family Medicine)  
Cathleen Besch, Nurse Practitioner  
Carey Brodzinski, Nurse Practitioner  
Betsy Fowler, Behavioral Health Counseling

These Health Centers are units of  
Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. - established in 1976  
to bring health services to those in need in the Northeast Kingdom.





## Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

My wife and I are having our annual "holiday" argument. I want to invite many of my far-flung family to celebrate Thanksgiving and

Christmas with us. My wife wants to go somewhere far away and spend the holidays quietly, with as little fuss as possible. It is clear to us we will never resolve this differ-

ence. We have tried her solution; I find it sterile and unsatisfying. We have invited many to our home. She dreads these occasions and finds them painful.

Anything you two can say about this dilemma may prove helpful. Thanks in advance.

Troubled Xmas

Dear Troubled,

First of all, you should know that a number of people find the holidays painful. These people are often a little ashamed about their feelings because the larger culture insists that joy and goodwill towards others is the "proper" response. Probably one's own response is determined almost completely by childhood experiences. In other words, delight or dread is an association to the actual occasions one witnessed. And we are pretty much stuck with these early associations, it would be as difficult for your wife to change her expectations of Christmas as it would be for you to change yours.

You are to be commended for the flexibility you have both shown in trying to accommodate to other's needs. It is surely distressing to spend the holidays in a way you intensely dislike.

## Tapas for One

(Continued from Page 18)

bility.

In no time at all, cooking will become a pleasure again. You'll find 16 reasons to invite guests. Maybe pole dancing isn't in our immediate future. But then, we never needed a gimmick, did we?

A few quick suggestions, for American kitchens, based on recipes found within:

Slowly saute chicken livers in a little butter over medium heat until cooked through but not dry. Set aside. Deglaze with sweet sherry. Cook until reduced by half. Return the livers to the pan and heat through. Serve immediately with toast or wild rice.

Toast or tartlets form the base for many a fine dish of tapas. Try anchovies and onion, sauted mushrooms with gorgonzola and leeks, crab meat tossed with sliced artichoke hearts.

Make sandwiches from slices of provolone or mozzarella cased between two thin slices of eggplant. Dredge the sandwiches in seasoned flour, dip in egg, then again in the flour. Saute in a little olive oil over medium heat until

nically browned on both sides. Serve with hot marinara sauce or a drizzle more of olive oil and lots of cracked black pepper.

Raw tuna lovers, cube one fresh steak and toss with soy sauce and a little olive oil. Place in a glass bowl, cover tightly, and refrigerate for 12 hours or overnight. Skewer and serve topped with sesame seeds, chopped chives or capers.

*Denise Brown lives in the Northeast Kingdom and teaches at Lyndon State College. Her memoir, The Unspeakable, was published by the University of Delaware Press. ★*

### LITTLE MOVER

**Local & Regional  
and  
Contract Trucking  
Since 1967**

KAP Enterprises, LLC  
838 Keyser Hill Road  
St. Johnsbury, VT  
USDOT 458292

(802) 748-9112 or cell (802) 793-7986  
Jphelps@kingcon.com

Friends of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

## Pewter Keepsake Ornaments

Featuring St. Johnsbury's historic buildings

**St. Johnsbury House**  
Originally a Main Street hostelry where many dignitaries have stayed. Currently serves as a center for seniors and a community gathering place.

**North Congregational Church**  
The gray North Church, designed by Lambert Peckard, was built in Medieval Gothic style from Isle La Motte limestone.

**Summer Street School**  
This historic brick schoolhouse with its distinctive bell tower served the community for more than 140 years.

**Fuller Hall**  
St. Johnsbury Academy's auditorium, built in 1930, is a brick Neoclassical building with massive white Tuscan columns.

**The Fairbanks Museum**  
The museum's Richardsonian Romanesque building is the centerpiece of St. Johnsbury's historic Main Street.

**The Athenaeum**  
St. Johnsbury's public library and art gallery was built in the Second Empire style. It is a National Historic Landmark. Available as ornament or keychain.

St. Johnsbury House	\$10/ea	qty	\$
North Congregational Church	\$10/ea	qty	\$
Summer Street School	\$10/ea	qty	\$
Fuller Hall	\$10/ea	qty	\$
Fairbanks Museum	\$10/ea	qty	\$
St. Johnsbury Athenaeum	\$10/ea	qty	\$
Shipping & Handling / see chart			\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>			\$

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of St. Johnsbury Athenaeum**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping and Handling**

1 ornament.....	\$5.00
2 ornaments.....	\$6.00
3 ornaments.....	\$7.50
4 or more.....	\$8.25

Mail your order to:  
**Friends of St. Johnsbury Athenaeum**  
 1171 Main Street,  
 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Contact us at:  
 (802) 748-8291  
[inform@stjohnsburyathenaeum.org](mailto:inform@stjohnsburyathenaeum.org)

You didn't ask for suggestions, but we have some anyway. First, give up trying to change how the other feels about the situation. If anyone ever wants to transform an experience of a holiday, or any experience, the desire and choice has to come from within the individual, not from another person.

Second, in any painful situation, hiding the pain will increase the distress. Nobody wants to be the Grinch or the Scrooge to someone else's Christmas, but a private five-minute time to complain about how this way of celebrating is painful for you might ease things dramatically. During this complaint session the listener's task is just to listen and agree that it must be painful.

Third, you paint a picture of black or white; stay and party or travel and relax. Even though it seems like an either or situation we think there can be a mix of options. We don't know if any relatives live near you. Perhaps the honors of hosting a gathering could be rotat-

ed or shared in some way. Or, you could travel to your relatives for a celebration, and then have some quiet time to yourselves at a getaway as well. You could also decide to alternate different ways of celebrating on different years. Here is another idea for acknowledging the season, volunteering for a good cause during the holidays.

**Remember -  
January will be  
here soon.**

Finally, you did not mention whether or not you have children. This factor often determines how to celebrate (or not) holidays.

May your marriage grow stronger, and remember January will be here soon.

*Alice S. Kitchel & Burton Zahler each have a private practice in St. Johnsbury.*

### Appalachian Supply Inc.

Wholesale - Retail  
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Supplies

4581 Memorial Drive  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
**(802) 748-4513**

Rte. 302  
Littleton, NH 03561  
**(603) 444-6336**

## Mayo's Furniture & Floor Covering

Furniture  
Floor Covering  
Window Treatment  
Wallpaper  
Paint

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

802 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 748-8725

Give the Gift of Hearing  
this Holiday Season

Diane Sandi Louise  
Isabelle

- ❖ Gift Certificates Available ❖
- ❖ Free Hearing Screenings ❖ Batteries, Accessories ❖
- ❖ Digital Hearing Instruments ❖ No Sales Tax ❖
- ❖ All-make Repair Service ❖

**ARMSTRONG'S**  
Better Hearing Service, Ltd.

198 Eastern Avenue ❖ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802) 748-4852 / (800) 838-4327  
Hours: M-T-W 9-4 / Th-F by appointment

# Pumpkin Hill Singers to Take Home

(Continued from Page 1)

dents may know Bob as the founder of his self-titled band [North Star: August 2007] and as the son of North Star contributor Bill Amos.)

Music stands mark the spots to which we have returned. Bob, behind his recording equipment, presents an almost meditative calm, in contrast to our "performers' nerves."

Susanne signals for attention. She reminds us of basic recording-session rules: no coughing, throat-clearings, toe tappings, page rustlings or other extraneous sounds must mar a "take" or we will repeat it. Windows and doors are closed against street noises (and resident bats of the 19th century stone church). Our music is enclosed in plastic covers and condensed into two-page spreads to minimize the need to turn pages. We were advised to drink a lot of water between takes, and maybe even have a nip from the bottle of brandy, which Susanne has thoughtfully provided, to hydrate and relax our vocal cords. After

warming up, doing some stretches and ridding ourselves of those pesky frogs in our throats, we are ready to begin.

**Many of Steve and Susanne's songs are about real people.**

Readers may recognize many names of the Singers. We are sopranos Andrea Machell, Jo-Ann Reed, Ashley and Julie Roslund, Susanne Terry and myself; altos Denise Briggs, Jocelyn Burrell, Cathy Hinchey, Pam Parker, Sandy Sherburne and Beth Williams; tenors Steve Parker, David Truslow and Gerry Zickler; and basses Toby Balivet, Jay Sprout and Tom Ziobrowski. Our musicians Ellen and Jeff Gold and David Hare are joined for this recording by Susanne's daughter Sarah Gowan and her partner Bill Quern from Philadelphia.

We are an interesting bunch: Several of us own home-based businesses. Others are teachers (in the fields of literacy, mediation and autism) or school office administrators. There are a book-

keeper and a schoolbus coordinator, a tree farmer and a retired graphics technician. One of us works for a theatrical rigging company. We include a judge, a minister, an artist and a poet. The field of medicine is well represented by a physician, a hospital care manager, a student nurse, the practice manager of a clinic and a psychologist. We even have someone "in rehearsal for retirement."

When not at work - or singing - we like to be outdoors (horseback riding, hiking, paddling, swimming, birdwatching or gardening - even snow shoveling). We play drums and folk dance; drive a tractor; raise cats, dogs and horses; study town history; travel to exotic places and explore Vermont back roads. Some quilt avidly; enjoy being parents and grandparents; take photographs; and of course, like to settle in for a good read in the rest of our spare time. Several use their musical talents in gospel singing, orchestral performance and church choirs.

In the parlor we are beginning with the title track of our CD: "With Song Alone." In a recent conversation, Susanne and Steve pointed out that this piece is from a cycle of poems called *Feast of Dreams*, which was performed as a reading with music about seven



Pumpkin Hill Photograph  
(L-R) Susanne Terry, Bob Amos and Steve Parker check the last take of the Pumpkin Hill Singers recording.

or eight years ago. The current setting was composed in 1998, and is one we have performed often, so our trial runs go well today, and we need only one or two takes for success.

We move on to *Music in the Kingdom* - a rousing hymn with a sacred harp sound. It, too, goes smoothly - until, at the very last note, a roll of tape with a mind of its own falls off a table. You won't hear it on the CD, of course, because we did another take.

At the end of each take, we learn to hold our breaths for five long seconds, to ensure a silent interval between songs. As Bob and Susanne listen to the results through earphones, we try to decipher their expressions. If

Susanne smiles and Bob gives us a thumbs-up, we know we are good to go on, after a brief break to sit, stretch our backs, drink more water.

As we relax, we chat: Dave Hare exchanges tips on playing the bones for Bill's instruction on the bodhran (an Irish drum). Andrea talks with the altos about her horses and dogs. Toby takes off one of the colorful shirts he brought back from Africa and puts on another. Julie and I compare memories of the earliest days of the group. (We are its longest-standing members.)

Not long ago, I asked Steve and Susanne to tell me how their lives and work prepared them for this moment. Steve recounted how

**Dussault's Heating**

**Sales Service Installation**

- ♦ Thermo Pride Furnaces
- ♦ Peerless Boilers

Box 301  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
**(802) 748-4945**  
**24 hour service**

**DADS 4 BY TOOL & SUPPLY**

"We Got You Covered"

**We Stock Tarps**

Blue Poly Tarps		Heavy Duty Tarps	
5x7	12x25	24x36	8x10
6x8	12x32	25x40	10x17
8x10	12x36	30x30	10x20
8x17	12x45	30x40	12x16
8x18	15x20	30x50	15x30
8x20	15x25	40x40	20x20
10x10	15x20	40x50	20x30
10x12	18x24	40x60	30x40
10x20	20x20	50x50	
12x12	20x25	50x100	
12x16	20x30		
12x20	20x40		

22 Memorial Dr. St. Johnsbury, Vt • 802-748-4208

**WESTERN AVENUE STATION**

"your friendly full service station"

Specializing in

- ♦ Exhaust systems
- ♦ Brakes

"See Dan the Muffler Man"  
Danny Lapierre, Mechanic

13 Western Ave. ♦ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 ♦ **(802) 748-2339**

## Holiday on the Danville Green

**Open House**  
Thursday, December 20  
5 ~ 7 p.m.  
Join us in this Holiday Celebration.

Reid & Balivet; Pope Memorial Library; Melody Hill Farm; Danville Video; Shadow Box Art & Framing.  
And at the Danville Senior Meal Site at the United Methodist Church on the Green ... with Begin Realty Associates; the CCSU Supervisory Union Staff, Passumpsic Savings Bank; Danville Post Office, North Star Monthly and the Sawyer Insurance Agency.

Stop by and visit with each of us at your leisure then follow us to the Danville Congregational Church and a special holiday concert with the Pumpkin Hill Singers at 7:30 p.m.



Pumpkin Hill Singers include (L-R) Susanne Terry, Julie Roslund, Andrea Machell, Dave Hare, Jo-Ann Reed, Denise Briggs, David Truslow, Jeff Gold, Ellen Gold, Tom Ziobrowski, Steve Parker, Pam Parker (in front), Jocelyn Burrell (with hat), Gerry Zickler, Sandy Sherburne, Beth Williams, Jay Sprout, Ashley Roslund. Missing are Cathy Hinchey, Toby Balivet, and Lisa Hantman.

his parents, professionals from the city, brought him to Vermont at the age of 4, "up onto a little hill farm." Although they found it impractical for dairy farming, he says, "I've had my lifetime to figure out a different kind of relationship with the landscape." The interdependence of farm families - "there was a lot of hardship" [and] "if a child died in a crib you just knew about it" - meant that Steve "grew up with all these stories and images and textures," which he began to transform into poetry over the years.

At some point he realized that

"publishing a quaint little volume that sits on a shelf in a bookstore" was not enough. When he and Susanne began to collaborate on songs, and then when The Pumpkin Hill Singers began to sing them, Steve says the writing became "much less lonely."

As Steve was writing, Susanne was trying her hand at composing (her childhood efforts "were all in the key of C"); directing (college musicals, church choirs and small groups); and arranging (about the time she began to share the direction of Pumpkin Hill).

Although she feels handi-

capped by a lack of music technique and theory, she has had years of experience as an accompanist. She says she has learned a lot on the job with our group, which "bears with us really generously." She, too, recognizes the influence of family, especially her mother, who insisted Susanne take piano lessons, and whose voice she hears in her own. Esther was The Pumpkins' biggest fan until her recent death at age 99. This CD is dedicated to her memory.

While some of Susanne's earliest efforts did not stand the test of time, some did. In 1992 she met

the challenge of arranging a traditional American song called "The Drinking Gourd," and she says, "It dawned on me I could do this." Shortly after that, when Steve asked her to set one of his poems to music, "it kind of took off." For about nine years their collaboration was sporadic. Then at least one new, original song appeared with each concert. In 2004 there was enough original music for an entire concert program.

Many of Steve and Susanne's songs are about real people. Beauman Shattuck, a farmer who lived in their house in the 1930's, is mentioned in "The Portable Mill." "Danville Fair" refers to Henry Danforth, whose photograph Steve found at the Danville Town Hall. "Part of the Game" also tells the true story of a local family. Then there is "Weather or Not," written for a fund-raiser for the Fairbanks Museum. It features our local meteorologists, one of whom, Mark Breen, can be heard giving a surprising forecast during the song. Susanne points out that these songs, although they are about one specific place, can speak to anyone who has experienced life in a small town.

The morning in the parlor goes well. At lunch time we take a longer break, to eat delicious soups and sandwich fixings people have brought. Conversation is brisk. Tom tells some of us about the spotted salamander he has raised from an egg; we are amazed to hear that the earthworms which

it likes to eat have learned to "freeze" so that the salamander can't see them.

After lunch, those who missed the picture-taking day for the album go outside with our official photographer, Sig Andersen, for a photo shoot. It feels good to breathe the fall air and get a quick look at the beautiful day. When it's time to gather for the afternoon session, we are energized and ready for more.

The recording goes so well that at five o'clock, five hours before our expected stopping point, we are done. Susanne expresses our collective gratitude to the friends who helped through the day, organizing lunch and generally smoothing out wrinkles along the way.

During breaks, many of us have had a chance to listen to parts of the recording, which has been a thrill. Since then, Bob has added concert hall depth to our parlor sound, and the resulting CD should, we hope, bring pleasure to our audiences of many years as well as to new listeners. As Steve said, "It was a magical day."

*With Song Alone* will be available for purchase within a few weeks at local outlets, or at our Christmas concerts (December 16 in the same church in St. Johnsbury and December 20 in the Danville Congregational Church at 7:30 p.m.). For more information, ask one of The Pumpkins or go to [www.pumpkinhillsingers.org](http://www.pumpkinhillsingers.org) ★

# NORTHEAST

## 802.748.4292

# COLLISION CENTER

We are a Full Service Vehicle Repair Center

## FALL SERVICE COUPON SPECIALS

Senior Citizen Discount  
10% OFF Every Day

### LUBE, OIL & FILTER

Up to 5 qts. oil.  
Most cars & trucks.  
Excludes synthetic oil.  
Includes 27 point inspection.

# \$9.95

Expires 12/31/07

STATE OF

12

YOU AND DUP

VERMONT

VT STATE INSPECTION

## \$12.95

With coupon.  
Expires 12/31/07

### SPRAYED-ON BEDLINER

# \$350

STANDARD SIZE PICKUP TRUCK BED

Savings up to \$200.

Expires 12/31/07

# FREE

## MOUNTING & BALANCING

### WITH TIRE PURCHASE

\*SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

Expires 12/31/07

## "We service all makes and models"

684 Portland Street • St. Johnsbury, VT OPEN Mon.-Fri.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## What's Happening at the Town Hall?

### Barnet

Town Clerk: William Hoar  
Selectboard: Ted Faris, Stanley Robinson and Jeremy Roberts

November 12, 2007

**County Budget** – Caledonia County Assistant Judge Roy Vance met with Board to review proposed county budget for 2008. Expenditures appear about the same as last year but with a reduction in revenues, amount to be raised from towns in the county will increase from about \$275,000 to around \$303,600. Estimate for Barnet is \$2,332.90 based on 2006 equalized grand list of \$192,325,000. Barnet paid \$22,396.25 in 2007. Current estimate for 2008 is \$24,729.

**Passumpsic Village Store Testing** – Letter from VT Department of Environmental Conservation indicates petroleum contaminants are present at levels which are in excess of state standards in three of monitoring wells. State concurs with recommendation to continue semi-annual groundwater monitoring and remove 5 wells from the sampling schedule. They also would like to inspect building interior to determine if there are any floor drains.

**Transfer Station** – Jeremy Roberts reports compactor at transfer station will be running by November 17. Board voted to accept proposal from VT Recreational Surfacing and Fencing for installation of 200 linear feet of 6 ft. high galvanized chain link fence at the site for the total price of \$3,837.

**Green Up Day** – Board reappointed Airie Lindsay town's Green Up day coordinator for 2008.

**Access Permit** – Board approved

highway access permit for Raymond Nutter Jr. on McLaren Hill Road.

**Special Appropriations** – Board approved requests for special appropriations in 2008 budget from American Red Cross (\$250); CALEX (\$7,160); Caledonia Home Health Care Agency (\$2,300); Northeastern VT Resource & Conservation District (\$75).

**Zoning Violation** – Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden notified Board that they are in violation of zoning ordinance for not filing for a permit for new compactor at transfer station prior to installing it. Board signed form provided to comply with the ordinance.

**Deputy Health Officer** – Board approved payment of registration fee for Deputy Health Officer Maurice Roberts to attend a meeting held by VT League of Cities & Towns.

### Cabot

Town Clerk: Doug Harvey  
Selectboard: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and Ted Domey

October 17, 2007

**Legal Issue** – After executive session to discuss mediation, no action taken.

**UDAG Committee** – Andy Leinoff reported on current financial status of UDAG fund and presented revised plan for UDAG committee. Further, on request of town clerk for clarification of town billing UDAG Committee for maintenance fee for the period the town was responsible for maintaining the UDAG fund (January through June 2007), Board voted to send invoice to UDAG committee for services rendered. In previous years UDAG committee

paid town \$2,300 for services.

**Budget Review** – Doug Harvey reviewed actual financial report and budget. Board noted cost of new highway truck as \$46,000 higher than budgeted \$97,000. Larry Gochey noted shortfall will be covered by \$51,000 from highway sinking fund. After considerable discussion, Board agreed in-depth review of budget is required to determine whether sufficient funds are available for rest of year.

**Willey Building** – Board noted letter from Joe Braley apologizing for breaking glass in Willey Building lift.

**Legal Matter** – Board discussed mediation session with Ken Davis, which is scheduled for October 24.

**Discontinuance** – Board noted public hearing and discussion about discontinuance of town right-of-way on Ruth Glaude's property.

**Public Consumption of Alcohol in Cabot** – Town clerk provided letter from Cabot Skylighters Snowmobile Club providing club recommendations to be considered for new town policy concerning alcohol consumption on town property.

November 7, 2007

**Budget Review** – Town clerk provided year to date budget report dated November 6. Board tabled discussion until next meeting.

**Bond Bank Refunding** – Board signed certain documents required for Municipal Bond Bank refunding.

**UDAG Committee** – After review by Andy Leinoff, Board approved revised plan for UDAG committee.

**VT League of Cities and Towns** – Board authorized Doug Harvey to attend municipal budgeting and financial seminar provided by VT League of Cities and Towns.

**Health Officer** – Health Officer Gary Gulka reviewed circumstances that prompted him to issue a health letter for conditions at 3065 Main Street. After discussion, Board directed Gulka to initiate notice of intent and draft health order. Further, Board requested that Gulka research and provide additional information concerning the process.

**Legal** – Doug Harvey reported Charles Merriman, town attorney, reported that following October 24

mediation session, no compromise could be reached in Ken Davis property matter. Court date will be set in near future.

**Discontinuance of Right of Way** – Following town clerk's report that discontinuance of town right of way on Ruth Glaude's property requires signature, Board provided required signature.

**Zoning Permit** – Following inquiry by Ronald Forant as to why his application for zoning permit with access off Bolton Road was denied, Board noted open court case concerning the right-of way to property from the Bolton Road and that town could not issue a permit while case is pending.

**West Hill Pond** – Daniel Cookson reported on West Hill Pond Association's attempt to repair West Hill Pond dam. Board will review appraisal report and engineering data and contact town attorney to discuss what options might be available. Board agreed to have report submitted for publication in town report.

**Willey Building Rent Fees** – Town clerk asked for clarification on organizations exempt from paying Willey Building rental fees. Board reported that currently all town committees, Cabot Coalition, school and library functions are exempt, but that "paying" customers had priority. Doug Harvey inquired about local non-profit organizations such as Cabot Skylighters. Board will have Willey Building Committee identify in writing what organizations are exempt from the fees.

### Danville

Town Clerk: Virginia Morse  
Town Administrator - Merton Leonard  
Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Denise Briggs, Doug Pastula, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

November 1, 2007

**County Budget** – Assistant Judges William Kennedy and Roy Vance met with Board to explain county budget for 2008. Total county budget is up by \$142 including sheriff's budget which is down by \$9650. Projections show a decrease in income by \$26,000 due to a decrease in small claims and passport fees. As a result Danville's share will increase by \$2,987 over the \$28,675.46 last year.

**Road Crew** – William Bailey presented letter signed by all members of road crew in support of Road Foreman Kevin Gadapee. Letter states they support Kevin 100%, that Merton Leonard is a great asset to the town and that he and Kevin work

well together for the town. Road crew has completed work on Brainerd Street, Walden Hill Road and Joe's Brook Road. Crew is hauling winter sand and working on culverts and drainage as long as weather allows.

**Legal Matter** – Scott Palmer met with Board looking for an answer to his questions from last meeting. Michael Walsh responded Board is waiting to meet with its lawyer and will advise when they have done so.

**Wastewater Plant** – Merton reported a maintenance balance with Earth Tech from last year of \$876. The total maintenance budget for wastewater system for 2008 is \$5,983.84.

**Joe's Pond Beach** – West Danville Community Club has found someone to tear down old bath house at no charge. Board voted to approve the plan provided there is no cost to town.

**Sugar Ridge Development** – Residents of Sugar Ridge Development are not always observing new one way road signs.

**Town Hall** – Merton Leonard reported investigation of an antique painted curtain, which may be available for adoption.

**FEMA** – Letter from FEMA indicates grant funds for repairs after July rain storm should be forthcoming.

**Wage Negotiations** – After executive session to discuss employee wages, no action was taken.

**Personnel** – After executive session to discuss personnel, Board directed Merton Leonard to send a letter to Guertins requesting they try to do something about the noise that their dogs make.

**Sewer Allocation** – Board voted to increase sewer allotment for Marty's First Stop 45GPD as requested for building and business expansion, contingent upon project being completed within two years.

**Legal Matter** – Following executive session to discuss legal matter, Board directed Merton to schedule meeting with legal council ASAP.

November 15, 2007

**Legal Issue** – Following executive session to discuss a legal matter with Attorney Scott Cameron, Mike Walsh informed Scott Palmer that issues he has raised have no support on Board and that if he finds that his rights or interests were abused he should pursue legal remedy through appropriate means. Board does not agree with his position and considers matter over.

**Tennis Courts** – Marvin Pritchard described improvements made to tennis courts and ball fields and asked that town add \$500 a year to tennis court fund for regular maintenance.

modern woodmen of america

Offering fraternal financial services to help you reach your financial goals.



**David Matto**  
FIG  
P.O. Box 88  
Danville, VT 05828  
802-681-3371

**Deb Wallens-Matto**  
FIG, LUTCF  
P.O. Box 88  
Danville, VT 05828  
802-681-3371

Touching Lives. Securing futures.™

You can't put a price on good sleep, but we did . . . and it's the best price.



Queen sets start at \$549



**FREE** Delivery,  
**FREE** Setup and  
**FREE** Removal

We will beat any Simmons Beautyrest mattress price within a 50 mile radius or you will get a \$100 gift certificate

**Stahler Furniture**  
American Quality - Vermont Values

Route 5, Lyndonville, Vermont 05851  
Mon. thru Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3, Sun. Closed  
call 1-802-626-5996 or visit us online at  
[www.stahlerfurniture.com](http://www.stahlerfurniture.com)

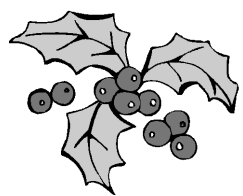
**If a Santa is bringing an 18" doll to someone you know, stop by to see the outfits she would love to have. If you have other dolls that need clothes, let's talk.**

Fashions for the 18" doll such as American Girl, Gotz, Springfield.

**Dianne Gadapee**  
**51 Bruce Badger**  
**Memorial Highway**  
**Danville VT 05828**

(802) 684-3323  
(best to call ahead).

**Stuart V. Corso, D.M.D.**  
**GENERAL AND FAMILY DENTISTRY**



**Happy Holidays**

31 Mountain View Drive Danville, VT  
**(802) 684-1133**

## Excerpts from Selectboard Minutes from Area Towns

See your Town Clerk for complete minutes of the meetings

nance.

**Speeding Ordinance** – State Police Detective JP Sinclair met with Board to discuss new speeding ordinance and to be sure Board understands proper signage required for enforcement and associated costs of signs and their installation as well as enforcement as it will be up to town to hire enforcement.

**Joe's Pond Beach** – Bert Frye met with Board to discuss bathhouse at Joe's Pond and propose that rather than have bathhouse torn down, it should be disassembled and moved. Board voted to rescind previous vote to have bathhouse torn down pending further investigation.

**Zoning Bylaws** – After an opportunity for public discussion, Board voted to readopt existing interim zoning bylaws without change.

**Road Crew** – Kevin Gadapee reported road crew has continued drainage and culvert repair and brush cutting as weather allows.

**Budget Projections** – Merton Leonard reviewed year-end budget projections.

**North Danville School** – Board approved payment of monthly charge for new telephone at North Danville School as long as there are no long distance charges involved.

**Curbcut** – Board approved curbcut for James Ashley on Kittredge Road.

**Wage Negotiations** – After executive session for wage negotiations with Ginnie Morse and with Kevin Gadapee and Merton Leonard, no action was taken.

### Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett  
Administrative Assistant - Art Sanborn  
Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Kevin Calkins and Kermit Fisher

October 29, 2007

**Highway Report** – Board reviewed highway report as of the week ending October 19. At 81% through the year entire budget is 76% expended.

**Budget Reports** – Board reviewed budget and actual financial reports for general fund, highway fund, wastewater fund, and sanitation fund.

**Excess Weight Permit** – Board approved excess weight permit for Bernard Fauteux.

**Grand List** – On recommendation of board of listers Board voted to decrease grand list by \$3.50.

**Access Permits** – Board approved access permits for Shawna Wilkerson onto Davis Lane and for Burgess onto Fall Brook Road.

**Utility Easement** – Board approved

right-of-way agreement allowing Verizon to place one utility pole on east side of Sherburne Place.

**Antique Fire Truck** – Board voted to gift 1934 fire truck to Town of St. Johnsbury for use as a parts truck to repair their sister truck with understanding that Lyndon can borrow the renovated truck.

**Policy for Harassment & Health** – Board approved health and safety policy as revised by Martha Feltus.

**ATV Use of Town Roads** – Board discussed a request from Bernie Ash to sign a prepared statement regarding ATV use of municipal roads. No action taken.

November 12, 2007

**Bulky Days Results** – Arthur Sanborn reported the tonnage was up for October Bulky Day. Cost per ton was down.

**Elliott Road** – Board discussed beaver dam on Elliott Road.

**Cobleigh Library** – David Keenan presented proposed 2008 budget for Cobleigh Library including a \$25,000 increase in funding from town.

**Waste Water Contract** – After executive session to discuss wastewater contract no action was taken.

**Personnel** – After executive session to discuss a personnel matter no action was taken.

### Peacham

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty  
Selectmen: Richard Browne, Tim McKay and Gary Swenson.

October 17, 2007

**Ball Field Improvement** – Board discussed recommended improvements to town baseball field for use by Cal Ripken Little League Association. Matt Kiley described volunteer help available, the total of 30 Peacham children likely to use the field and requested town assistance in purchasing backstops, material for base paths and weekly mowing. Board suggested a \$2,000 addition to budget might be considered.

**Town Clerk Office Help** – Bruce Lafferty reviewed need for additional office, vault and meeting space in town hall. Board asked for specific needs.

**Budget Review** – Town Treasurer reviewed budget status. Board requested budget proposal from fire department and town clerk.

**Transfer Station** – Board discussed new fence and entrance and exit gates for transfer station.

**Road Matters** – Administrative Assistant Phil Jejer reported year to date budget status and installation of

additional speed limit signs. Board asked for costs and financing options for replacement of town's 1-ton truck. Seasonal road work and repairs have occurred on Slack Street, Old County Road, East Hill Road, Ewell's Mill Road, Green Bay, County Road, and bottom of Cemetery Hill Road.

**Affordable Housing** – Dick Browne reported on "affordable housing" study presented by Gilman Housing Trust. Browne will meet with planning commission chairman, Gib Parrish, to review the topics.

**Property Donation** – Board discussed possible donation of the old schoolhouse parcel on East Peacham Road by property owner, Thomas Delprete.

### St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch  
Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier  
Selectboard: Jerry Rowe, Daniel Kimbell, Bryon Quatrini, Gary Reis and Dale Urie.

October 22, 2007

**NEK Human Services Program** – Several residents met with Board to express concern for NEK Human Services program using two beds at O'Shea's for sheltering mental health patients. Discussion included lack of permit and need for development review board hearing. Board voted to request that development review board be moved ahead from November 6 to try to address concerns as soon as possible.

**Grand List** – Following presentation by Town Clerk Sandy Grenier and Assessor Peter Whitney Board voted to approve 2007 Grand List Amendments #1 - #18.

**Municipal Audit** – Following recommendation by finance committee, based only upon perceived value of having a new auditor after 10 years with same firm, Board vote to award a three year audit contract to Corrette & Associates.

**Winter Parking Ban** – Following presentation by Highway Superintendent Larry Gadapee and discussion of a pilot program modification of the winter parking ban,

Board asked to speak with police chief about enforcement of existing winter parking ban.

**Municipal Building and Fire Station Update** – Board met with Architect Jay Ancel and reviewed various concepts for fire station on land offered by Murphy Realty on Hastings Hill. After considerable discussion about advantages and disadvantages of the site Ancel agreed to report back to Board with additional information and cost estimates.

**St. Johnsbury Center** – After discussion of recommendation of planning commission to submit an application to state seeking Village Center Designation for a portion of St. Johnsbury Center, Board voted to table action proposal and to refer review of the proposed boundary to a sub-committee including Richard Boisseau and Dale Urie, to review the boundary.

**US 2 Park & Ride** – Following review of concept plans for US 2 Park & Ride area at bottom of Western Avenue and considerable public discussion, Gary Santy (Santec), and Wayne Davis (VTRANS) agreed to get some accurate counts on current use and to look at plans from the perspective of residents on Knollwood Terrace and Undercliff.

**Barker Avenue** – Town Manager reported town received an \$81,500 grant to construct a new sidewalk on Barker Avenue, replace traffic signs on Western Avenue and purchase two radar speed feedback signs for Western Avenue.

### Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith  
Selectboard: David Brown, Perley Greaves and Douglas Luther

October 23, 2007

**Gravel** – Perley Greaves reported gravel will be purchased from Gravel's.

**Recreation Field** – Greaves reported a complaint from Arnold Martin who lives near soccer field. Martin's driveway is being blocked by spectators at soccer games. Board noted Martin has legal right-of-way and he shouldn't be blocked. There is also some dispute about boundaries. There is insufficient parking, but since soccer season is over Board agreed to consider the problem in spring.

**Road Grants** – Dave Brown reported storm water mitigation and Better Back Roads program grants have been submitted.

November 13, 2007

**Caledonia County Budget** – Roy Vance met with Board and reviewed the county budget for 2008.

**Constable** – Bill Huntoon reported that three summer camps were broken into on Noyestar Road. A Neighborhood Watch alert was issued. He also reported numerous calls relative to hunting season including cars parked along roads, trespassing on posted land and ATV's. Speeding on back roads is still a problem.



## PAUL'S FARM SERVICE

Sales • Service • Parts

Paul D. Bergeron

Phone (802) 695-2500 • Fax (802) 695-2900

514 West Main Street (US RT 2) • Concord, Vermont 05824

Serving Agricultural Needs with Integrity Since 1976

## WORKERS' COMP

### Are you getting the best deal possible?

Call us today and we will answer this all important question for you.

# Kinney Pike

Kinney Pike Insurance, Inc. Insurance Specialists  
Crafting Insurance Since 1904

We have access to exclusive markets.

Call us for all of your insurance needs.

Bill Daley and Doug Spaulding are located at  
970 Memorial Drive, St. Johnsbury.  
(802) 748-1010 or (800) 639-1010  
[www.kinneypike.com](http://www.kinneypike.com)

Six offices statewide: Burlington, Poultney, Randolph, Rutland, St. Johnsbury & White River Jct.



Happy Holidays  
from Everyone  
at WSTJ

PO Box 249 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802) 748-2345

**SAMADHI STORE**  
Unique Gifts • Elegant Jewelry  
Home Decor • Incense  
Greeting Cards  
Accessories for  
Body and Mind  
And our Signature  
Cushions for  
Meditation  
and Yoga

Mon. to Fri.: 9-5  
Saturday: 10-4

802.633.4440  
800.337.7751  
[www.samadhistore.com](http://www.samadhistore.com)

30 CHURCH ST., BARNET, VT 05821

# Henry Homeyer's New Vermont Gardener's Companion

CARROLL COLBY

Even the most obsessive gardeners in Vermont have put aside their rakes and hoes for the year.

It's a bleak time for serious gardeners. The short days are getting still shorter, and each afternoon house lights are coming on earlier. Some gardeners are already rationing their summer bounty as freezers and pantries show gaps in their once crammed storage space.

It may be too soon to be ordering seeds for next year, but it's never too soon for a good

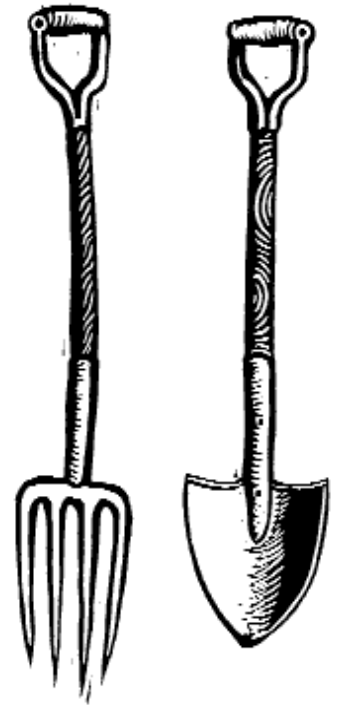
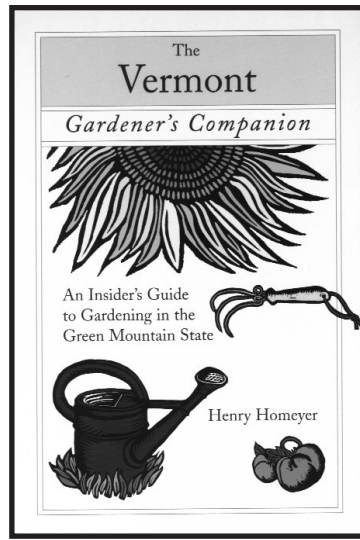
book on bettering your skills in the garden. There is no end to the galaxy of suggestions for improving performance growing vegetables, flowers and lawns, but that which applies to the broad, fertile fields of mainstream gardening rarely fits our experience against the Canadian border. So I was pleased to find Henry Homeyer's recent *Vermont Gardener's Companion, an Insider's Guide to Gardening in the Green Mountain State*. It is about gardening where the odds are stacked against you.

Homeyer is a University of

New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Master Gardener with more than 50 years of organic gardening. He is a prolific writer with a weekly gardening column, which appears in a dozen New England newspapers. He is associate editor of *People, Places and Plants Magazine* and author of the celebrated *Notes from the Garden*, selected by *The Christian Science Monitor* as one of the best gardening books of 2002.

Once a month his Vermont Public Radio broadcast as the "Gardening Guy" and his twice a year call-in gardening program on New Hampshire Public Radio capture the hearts of gardeners from Down East, Maine all the way to the high valleys of the Adirondacks.

As Homeyer likes to say,



Vermonters prevail in harvesting wonderful vegetables, flowers and fruits despite the subzero temperatures in winter, the never ending appearance of rocks left by glaciers, and the all too familiar populations of bugs and diseases. This *Gardener's Companion* is written to make their efforts more rewarding and maybe even your life as a gardener a bit easier.

Homeyer gives a practical explanation for the limitations of gardening in Vermont because of her soils, seasons and rainfall. He describes solutions to

improving soil conditions, extending the brief growing season and effective watering. But he doesn't promise the moon. Gardeners are tempted to grow everything from artichokes and hot peppers to sweet potatoes, and that's not a bad thing, but those same gardeners need to remember that there is a reason that most produce suited to a

**David Toll, M.D.**

**Pediatrics**

1394 Main Street  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802) 748-2348

**Shadow Box  
Art & Framing**

Custom Picture Framing  
Art Supplies  
Fine Art Gifts & Prints

**Gift Certificates Available**

15B Hill Street Danville, VT 05828 802-684-8124  
83 Central Street Woodsville, NH 03785 603-747-3967

Barbara Riley - Owner

**Treasure Chest Crafts**

Hand Crafted in Vermont

Ken & Cheryl Munding  
451 Peacham Road, Danville, VT 05828  
(802) 684-2569 KKM4807@aol.com

**FAIRBANKS  
MUSEUM**  
planetarium

Open Tuesday - Saturday  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Planetarium shows:  
Saturday & Sunday at 1:30

**STEBBINS BRADLEY HARVEY MILLER &  
BROOKS, PA**

**Estate Planning  
Trust Planning and Administration**



Front row: Willemien Dingemans Miller, Cathryn Nunlist  
Second row: John S. Stebbins, Gary T. Brooks, Catherine Richmond  
Top row: David H. Bradley, Stephen Girdwood and Nicholas Harvey, Jr.

- Wills, trusts, power of attorney, and advance directives
- Property preservation and management
- Minimize gift and estate taxation
- IRA and pension beneficiary elections
- Planning for U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens
- Charitable giving strategies
- Business organization and succession planning Trust and estate administration

*Serving client since 1946 in New Hampshire and Vermont*

[www.stebbinsbradley.com](http://www.stebbinsbradley.com)

421 Summer Street  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802) 748-6367

41 South Park Street  
Hanover, NH 03768  
(603) 643-3737



**H.A. Manosh Corporation**  
since 1959

We have not one but four drills for your convenience

- Well Drilling
- Water Systems
- Hydrofracturing
- Water Treatment
- Video Well Inspections
- Water Fountains

120 Northgate Plaza  
Morrisville, VT 05661  
(802) 888-5722 or (800) 544-7666

Web Site: [www.manosh.com](http://www.manosh.com)





Similarly, Homeyer offers classics and his favorites among annual and perennial flowers. I was especially interested in his lesser known but no less appealing flowers sorted by their preferred growing conditions. His all time favorite? Flowers offer amazing diversity for their size, color, form and fragrance, but in his *Vermont Gardener's Companion*, Homeyer says, if he could pick only one for his exile to a desert island, it would be a peony. Double white with a red highlight and fragrance so sweet it should be sold as perfume, it's the Festiva Maxima that Homeyer recommends for any Vermont garden.

Last summer I renewed my own commitment to growing apple trees, and as a result I found particular interest in Homeyer's instructions on planting and pruning fruit trees.

But what really struck a chord was his observation about our interfering with the plans of Mother Nature. Without us she wouldn't grow lilacs, lilies or lettuce in Vermont. I have all three in large quantities, and there seems to be no negative conse-

quence. But purple loosestrife and the mint that are running wild are examples of invasive species and there are pests and diseases with no natural enemies lining up across the Green Mountains.

Homeyer offers organic recommendations for turning back the tide of invasive species and unchecked pests and diseases. He also lists Web sites, suppliers, and other resources and a list of public gardens in Vermont where landscaping and garden planting are especially well done.

Whether as a gift for someone else or an inspiration for your own return to gardening in the spring, look for a copy of this recent publication. Henry Homeyer, and his step-son, illustrator Josh Yunger, have created a comprehensive yet highly readable book for novices and serious green thumbs alike.

"Gardening nourishes and strengthens not only the body, it nurtures the soul. Had a hard day at work? Mad at (you pick) your teenager, boss or the neighbor's ill-mannered dog? Get out in the garden. Pull weeds. Better yet plant something. There is a primal urge wired into most of us to plant things. Plant a six-pack of annual flowers or a few pumpkin seeds and you'll feel better. Pick some flowers and arrange them in a vase. You will feel like a new person, only vaguely resembling the ogre who walked down the path in the garden."

Henry Homeyer

*Illustrations by Josh Yunger from The Vermont Gardener's Companion reprinted with permission from The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford CT. ✦*



warm climate travels over the highway.

"Vermont's weather may be cold and unpredictable," he writes, "but Mother Nature has decorated the state with a fine selection of trees, shrubs and wildflowers without help from any of us." I have saved his recommended vegetable list, and I plan to cross check it with my own favorites when the mail order seed catalogues arrive later in winter.

## Get Ready for Christmas at The North Danville Brainerd Library

ELIZABETH SZYMANIK

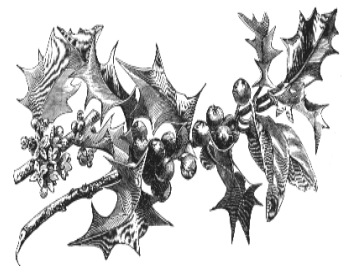
Christmas is quickly approaching, and we hope that you will stop in to check out our special display of holiday oriented books. In addition everyone is invited to join us to make easy Christmas origami on Friday, December 7 from 2 - 4 p.m.

Newly acquired this month are several books by Beverly Lewis including *The Prodigal* and *Autumn Song*. Our old-time movie collection is growing with new DVD titles including numerous episodes of *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *The Waltons*.

Our space is overflowing and

so we now have a selection of books to give away located in the foyer of the North Danville Community Building.

Regular hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 - 4 p.m. The library is also open on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m. Bring your knitting (optional) and take home some good winter reading.



## REID & BALIVET

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ERNEST TOBIAS BALIVET  
JUDITH A. SALAMANDRA CORSO

DANVILLE GREEN • DANVILLE, VT • (802) 684-3666



## BERKSHIRE PAINTING CORPORATION

- Painting & Staining
- Interior & Exterior
- Power Washing
- Sheet Rock Repair
  - Quality Work
  - Free Estimates
  - Fully Insured

Doug Winseck (802) 626-4071 East Burke

## NORTHERN PETROLEUM CO.

189 RAILROAD ST. - ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 05819 (802) 748-8934 OR 1(800) 222-9276

**The Family of NORTHERN PETROLEUM CO. Wishes Your Family All the Warmth of the Holidays**

HowArd  
Gadapee  
Carol Morey  
Clarence Mitchell  
Butch Cuthbertson  
Andy Hill, Will Valley  
Kenneth LaFleur, Shane Ward  
Chuck Belanger, Karen Westover  
Rich Lawson, Peter Belanger, Sheila Davis  
Mike Nelson, Terry Cromack, Curt Utton, Ed Labounty  
Steve Harran, Bruce Gould, Kris Benoit, Sue Legendre  
Bruce Stone, Sean Somers, Steve Taylor, Arthur Dionisio  
Shawn Olden, Lewis Smith, Nancy Guinan, Stephen Bell, Jill Bigelow

K  
P  
e  
r  
n  
e  
s  
e  
c  
t  
o  
h  
t  
t

Kerry Skochin

**We Make Your Home a Better Place**  
St. Johnsbury, VT  
1-800-222-9276  
December 2007

# THROW IT... HIGHER



## THE BOSS POWER-V XT

Introducing the new enforcer in professional plows... THE BOSS Power-V XT. Boasting a 37 inch tall flared bladewings with an enhanced curl, the ultra-tough Power-V XT throws snow higher and farther than any other plow on the market. More snow higher

and farther means you get through more jobs faster and easier. And it doesn't stop there. You'll find it loaded with other features the rest can't match, like the one-half-inch thick high performance cutting edge that delivers twice the wear resistance of typical cutting edges. The result? A plow that makes it clear who's THE BOSS before you even get there. Experience THE BOSS Power-V XT and new Straight-Blade XT for yourself.

## SOUTH MAIN AUTO SALES & SERVICE

Trusted Auto Repair for Over 18 Years. "Let us earn your trust."

802-748-3219 • 118 Main Street • St. Johnsbury, VT • 802-748-9694

southmain1@charter.net

Authorized Briggs & Stratton Small Engine Repair

www.southmainsalesandservice.com

# A Ride Through the Woods

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

It was early November and the day of our wedding anniversary. We hadn't made a plan for the day, but as we sipped our breakfast coffee, our son Steve popped his head into the kitchen to ask if we would like to take a tour in his truck to see some things he has been working on. He's been working the land as a tree farmer for about 35 years, and in the past few years we've turned ownership of most of it over to him and his wife. The property that makes up the tree farm has been in the current use program since 1986.

It turned out that what Steve wanted to show us was primarily roads and the vistas they led to. Over the years he has been a steward of the land, he has developed a vision of what this dense woodland could become with good management. This has involved endless miles of woods-walking over time, just to become familiar with the terrain, with its hillocks and valleys just visible through the trees. Only

then could a plan develop in his mind for roads that would allow for careful access to the area. All this groundwork could be appreciated as we left the town road and started along Steve's woods roads.

It was a lovely day with spectacular color in the hardwood forest despite the golden carpet of leaves already fallen to cover the paths. We started off in mid-afternoon, not quite remembering that we had just turned the clocks back and that dusk would come surprisingly early. Steve's aging pickup truck, to which he seemed practically welded as we bounced along, was up to the job at hand. It was not a tour we could do in our four-wheel drive car, and certainly not on foot, though we are pretty sturdy for octogenarians.

Steve knew just how to navigate the bumps and turns in the road. Some sections of the road were well-established, but as we traveled farther, we could see that the way was more recently chiseled out of the woods. Every so often, Steve would stop so that we could

see some view that had been opened in the road-making process. He would comment on special trees left in place or remark on a spot that might be a delightful location for a cabin someday. He knew where deer browsed and pointed out trees where bear had scratched the bark, searching for grubs to satisfy their hunger.

Here and there were neat piles of logs, which would ultimately feed wood stoves. There were one or two remains of rough cabins, built long ago by early Vermonters who worked the woods and used them as shelter. Without those cabins it would have been a long way back when darkness fell or changing weather caught the logger deep in the woods.

Steve moved along unerringly, never at a loss as to which way to go, so familiar had he become with the land. We arrived back home just as darkness was beginning to fall. We felt as though we had traveled back in time to when sturdy, self-reliant farmers who lived on this property built our old red farm-

house and barns. Steve loves and respects every inch of this area and never does anything to damage the integrity of each spot, or of the larger forest around it.

The seasons come and go, as they have for many years, and we

hope that in the future there will be stalwart folk who choose to live here, loving and working this land and striving to preserve its special quality when we, who now enjoy it, are gone. ✦

## Environmental Activist Bill McKibben Will Speak At Fuller Hall

Bill McKibben, winner of the Fairbanks Museum's 2007 Franklin Fairbanks Award, is known for inspiring new thinking about our world and the choices we face every day. Beginning in the summer of 2006, he led the organization of the largest demonstrations against global warming in American history. His research on topics ranging from climate change to population growth has inspired thousands of people to rethink how we live.

He will talk about his latest work, *Deep Economy: Local Economies, Global Emergencies* on Tuesday, December 4, at 7:00

p.m. at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall.

This presentation will draw on research and writing in his latest book, which was published in March 2007. In it he suggests that more might not be better, going against current consumer messages. McKibben proposes alternative ways to approach the things we buy, the food we eat, the energy we use and the money that pays for it all.

"Our purchases," he says, "do not have to be at odds with the things we truly value." McKibben envisions a transition to more local-scale enterprise – challenging us all to test our awareness of the long and varied paths that lead products to our supermarkets and corner stores.


"Bill McKibben's message resonates with our traditions and our future," says Fairbanks Museum Executive Director Charlie Browne. "The Museum was founded on a commitment to understanding the natural world, and Bill McKibben raises vital questions that are particularly relevant to our region."

**MICHAEL K. WALSH & SON, Builders**  
 New Construction • Remodeling • Renovations  
 Finish Work • Decks • Wallpapering • etc.  
 ♦ Call Now for Winter Projects  
 Solid reputation of quality workmanship,  
 reasonable rates and dependability



Over 25 years of experience (802) 684-3977 Danville, VT

*Albro Nichols House*  
**Victorian Cream Teas**  
 \$10 per person



Margaret Ryan, Hostess  
 Tuesday - Saturday 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
 53 Boynton Avenue, St. Johnsbury, VT  
 By Reservation Only: (802) 751-8434

**Internet**  
 HOLIDAY SPECIAL!  
 Unlimited Hours  
**\$99 One Full Year!**  
 Offer Ends 12/31/07

- FREE 24/7 Live Technical Support
- Instant Messaging - keep your buddy list
- 10 e-mail addresses with Spam Protection
- Custom Start Page - news, weather & more!

Surf up to **6X faster!**  
 just 13 cents per month

Sign Up Online! [www.LocalNet.com](http://www.LocalNet.com)  
 Call Today & Save!  
**LocalNet 748-8188**  
 Reliable Internet Access Since 1994

**HS**

**Peter Hopkins**  
 13 Raymond Street  
 Lyndonville, VT  
 05851

**Phone (802) 626-5555**  
**Night (802) 626-8042**

**SUPPLIES**




May your home be filled with warmth and happiness during the holidays.

**Five Star Autobody**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

George C. Mudge, Jr.  
**Certified Collision Repair Center**

604 Lapiere Drive (Off I-91 Exit 22)  
 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
**(802) 748-5321**

**TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT by Will Moses**



Serigraphs • Lithographs • Prints • Posters  
 Calendars • Note Cards • Illustrated Books

Conservation Framing with UV filtering glass & Archive Mats & Boards  
 Dry Mounting, Carves & Embroidery Stretching  
 D.I.Y. Framing Materials

**The Framing Format & Gallery**  
 485 Lafayette Street Saint Johnsbury, Vermont  
 800-699-3964 • 802-748-3964  
[www.framingformat.net](http://www.framingformat.net)

**Matt Pettigrew**  
**ELECTRIC**

"Quality comes first."

Residential • Commercial  
 Providing all aspects of electrical work including excavation for underground wiring and services.

Insured and licensed in Vermont and New Hampshire.  
 For prompt professional service call:

**Matt Pettigrew (802) 751-8201**  
**Danville, Vermont**

# Choosing a Christmas Tree

LEONARD PERRY

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, 29 million households had real Christmas trees in 2006 compared to just over 9 million households with artificial trees. Of those with real trees, most (84%) bought them at retail outlets. The others cut their own.

Either way, before you leave home, measure the space your tree will occupy—both height and width. Take a tape measure with you, as trees always look smaller in the great outdoors than they do in our homes. This one step can save buying a tree too large, and extra cutting once the tree is inside.

Also, before leaving home pack a blanket or tarp to wrap the tree if you can't fit it inside, as well as enough rope to tie it securely to, your vehicle. Some tree farms have netting sleeves to slip your trees into, as well as twine. A pair of work gloves is useful, as is a hand saw, especially if you'll be cutting your own.

Choosing to "cut your own" at a tree farm may save money, as growers often ask a fixed price for any tree. Sometimes a sleigh ride or coffee and doughnuts are includ-

ed in the price. Some farms allow you to tag your tree early to cut just before the holidays. Good buys also can be found at retail outlets, though prices are usually higher as someone else has provided the labor and transportation. Shop early for a good selection of trees and for fresh trees, which will last longer.

How can you easily check for freshness? First, pinch the needles. If they bend rather than break, the tree is fresh. Run your hand along the branches to see if the needles stay on or many fall off. Or bounce the stump end of the tree on the ground. If too many needles fall off, keep looking. Another way to check is to feel the base of the tree. If it is sticky with resin, the tree was recently cut and should stand up well throughout the holidays.

Many varieties of evergreens are grown to be used as Christmas trees, so you have several choices depending on your preference. The spruce has short, sharp, four-sided needles and is usually bushier than pine. However, it doesn't hold needles as well as other vari-

eties. The fir has flat, short needles and smooth bark. The pine has longer needles in clusters of two to five and will hold its needles for several weeks. The most popular, depending on the area, are balsam fir, Douglas-fir, Fraser fir, noble fir, Scotch pine, Virginia pine and white pine.

I like to shop early for the freshest trees, even if I won't use them right away. Pre-cut trees from retailers will last longer in a cool area (such as garage) at your home in a bucket of water than in a sales yard. When you get your tree home, especially if you didn't cut your own, place the base in a bucket of warm water. Warm water is absorbed faster than cold. Research shows that plain tap water is best for trees to last longest. Home concoctions such as bleach, aspirin, lemon-lime soda and many preservatives may have no value at all and actually shorten tree life.

It is useful to recut a half inch off the trunk to open up the water vessels when you get it home. One to two inches cut off is not needed as often recommended (unless you need to shorten the tree length) nor

is an angled cut.

When it's time to set up the tree, if you don't do so immediately after buying it, recut the base.

Get a stand that can hold the trunk. Don't trim sides off the base of the trunk as that is where the tree takes up its water.

Use a stand that holds at least a quart of water for small trees, a gallon for large ones, as a freshly cut evergreen will drink that much water each day. Generally figure on a quart of water for each inch of trunk diameter at the base. So a trunk four inches across should have a stand holding four quarts (gallon) of water.

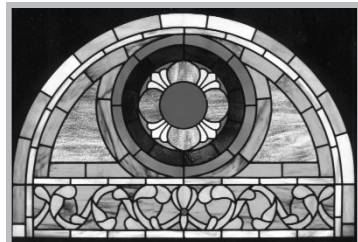
If you cut your own and if your tree doesn't drink water right away, and if you followed all these tips, it could be because the tree hasn't adjusted from the outdoors and started to dry out. Or if pre-cut, and fresh, it may not absorb much water until it begins to dry out.

Choose a location away from heat sources (heat vents, radiators, wood stoves, sunny windows) and doorways. Tall trees may need to be secured with wire to walls or the ceiling for support. I have a bookcase affixed securely to the wall to which I always tie our tall trees.

Be sure to check your tree daily and add water as needed. Heated

rooms, especially those with forced air heat, dry out trees rapidly. Keep in mind that the fire hazards of live trees indoors are overrated by the media. According to data from the National Fire Protection Association, both live and artificial Christmas trees are ignited in only one tenth of one percent of all home fires. Trees that are kept fresh are very difficult to ignite. The main problem with dry trees is a shorter life with needles dropping. Pick a fresh tree, and keep it fresh, and you'll have the enjoyment you expect over the holidays.

*Leonard P. Perry, Ph. D. is extension professor at the University of Vermont.*



## Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Douglas Carter  
Pastor

Please Join Us  
for Worship  
at 10:30 a.m. and  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Bring your family.  
(802) 684-2176



## The Creamery Restaurant

Dinner  
Tues.-Sat. 5:00-closing  
Pub  
Opens at 4:00  
(802) 684-3616  
Closed Sundays & Mondays

Join us for a  
New Year's Day  
Buffet

Call for Reservations

# Thank + you!

## A big thank you to our customers from all of us at Community National Bank.

Some thoughts are almost too big for words. Like the way we feel about our customers!

And with the holiday season approaching, what better time to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of the wonderful people who have chosen to bank with us.

Thanks to you, Community National Bank has grown to become one of Vermont's leading community banks. And now that we are poised to merge with LyndonBank, we hope to do even more for our customers and communities.

Wishing you a safe, happy holiday season.



Member FDIC



# Is It Ever Too Late to Give Thanks?

VAN PARKER

I am thankful that we have a holiday called simply Thanks-giving. Though surrounded by the hype of the Christmas/Holiday season, Thanksgiving has almost no commercial side to it. The name is self-explanatory. Along with eating a big meal, Thanksgiving is about giving thanks.

Of course there's a history to

this celebration. In 1621, after a hard year, the Plymouth settlers had a bountiful harvest. They celebrated with a meal, also attended by 91 Indians. The Pilgrims could not have survived without the help of the people who were there before them. So, while the transplanted settlers thanked God, one would hope they also thanked the 91 who joined them for celebration.

Unfortunately, the harmony of

that day didn't continue. About 50 years later the English colonists got into an unnecessary war with the Native Americans, which came to be known as King Philip's War. For a year or so, bloodshed and massacres spread through Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay and the Connecticut Valley, and the good relationship between the tribes and the English settlers ended.

But in one form or another the

celebration of "a day of thanks-giving" continued. Washington approved of the idea. Jefferson didn't. Sarah Josepha Hale campaigned for a federal holiday, and in 1863 President Lincoln proclaimed the "last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving."

However it came about, "a day of thanksgiving" reminds me that "counting your blessings" is one of the best things anyone can do. As I write this, my wife and I are looking forward to spending Thanksgiving with my 90-year old brother, Doug. He lives in a place called Reed's Landing in Springfield, MA. Doug's son died in his 30's. Doug's wife died in 2005. He's had many operations. A stroke has limited his mobility so he gets around only in a wheelchair or a walker. But my brother's mind is very sharp. He remembers dozens of birthdays and anniversaries. His sense of humor is as good as ever. His daughter calls him every day. When I visit him I always leave feeling a little better.

People who have thought about it a long time have concluded that there are really only two kinds of prayer. One is summed up in the word "Thanks," the other in the word "Help." The holiday

called "Thanksgiving" is about thanks, offered not only to God but to and for people. So even though Thanksgiving has passed, the dishes have been washed and the turkey all gone, here's my list, recently updated, but never complete:

For my parents, who taught me about loyalty and unconditional love. For my sister and brothers who helped to raise me. For my wife, who always gently nudges me in the right direction. For our adult children and their spouses, from whom we continue to learn. For our grandchildren, whose spontaneity keeps us young. For friends, who seem to say the right word at the right time.

And recently: For the teller at the bank who chased after me with the checkbook I'd left at her window. For Danville neighbors who hay our field, supply our gardens with cow manure and look after our house when we are gone. For Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore and people like him who care about the earth around us.

I still hope that back in 1621 our ancestors, the Pilgrims, thought to thank the "heathen" Indians as well as God for helping them through that first year.

# Would It Start on a Cold Morning?

(Continued from Page 28)

start out very early and make the rounds to start cars. He knew who had to be started first and he worked his way around the route. If it was only moderately cold, 10 to 20 below, he could start cars with jumper cables. If it was really cold, 30 to 40 below, he would have to push the car down the road. You put the car in second gear and depressed the clutch. When you got up to speed, 10 to 15 miles per hour, you popped the clutch, the engine began turning over and after a few revolutions, it would fire and start. Your job at that point was to keep it running. If it stalled, you started the whole process over.

One of the joys of these cold starts was the tires. In cold weather they would "take a set" and be flat on the bottom due to the weight of the car. As you went down the road, the car would bump along, sometimes for miles. Modern tires hold their shape much better, and while they might bump for a few rotations, they react much more quickly to being worked.

The real culprit in the winter starting challenge was the carburetor. The carburetor was the device that mixed air with gasoline and fed it into the engine. In cold weather, the gas was slow to vaporize and it mixed poorly with the intake air. If the gas stayed a liquid, it would "flood the engine" and wet the spark plugs.

Wet plugs could not ignite the air gas mixture. So, the more you tried, the worse things got. Today, fuel injection systems have replaced the old carburetor. In today's car, the engine can sense the temperature and adjust the fuel-air mixture so it will vaporize and not flood the engine. In the old days you always pumped the gas pedal once or twice to get fuel into the carburetor. Today, you let the fuel injection system decide how much fuel to inject. Between better gasoline and much better fuel

systems, there are few mornings when a modern car won't start.

Another strategy that nearly everyone employed at one time or another was to get up two or three times during the night, go outside and start the car. Then you would sit in the car while it warmed up. Once the temperature gage started to move, you turned the car off and went back to bed. It was important to reset the alarm, because in 2 or 3 hours you had to do it all again.

Maybe the good old days were not so good. ★

Building & Remodeling  
Painting & Wallpapering  
Snowplowing & Sanding



**EMMONS & YOUNG  
CONSTRUCTION**

Jim (802) 684-3856 1154 Bruce Badger Memorial Hwy.  
Dana (802) 633-3844 Danville, VT 05828

"Your Clear Choice in Auto Glass Replacement"

## Windshield World

"We Come to You"

- ♦FREE COURTESY CAR OR MOBILE SERVICE
- ♦INSURANCE APPROVED FOR DIRECT BILLING
- ♦WRITTEN WARRANTY
- ♦ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT SAFETY GLASS
- ♦LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

DIAL TOLL FREE  
**800-639-0666**  
"PROMPT FRIENDLY SERVICE"

ST. JOHNSBURY  
371 Memorial Drive • 748-3310

STRENGTH AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT • HORIZONTAL BIPEDALS • TROTTER TRACKS
GAME ROOM • STRENGTH AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT • HORIZONTAL BIPEDALS • TROTTER TRACKS



When exercising,  
water is essential.



**Health & FITNESS CENTER**

Make a splash! Experience the Northeast Kingdom's newest and finest health and fitness center. Enjoy luxury, state-of-the-art equipment, privacy, convenience — and our pool! Open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., 365 days a year.

	SINGLE	FAMILY*
1 MONTH	\$150	\$300
3 MONTHS	\$225	\$375
6 MONTHS	\$375	\$525
1 YEAR	\$525	\$675

\* 2 adults and 2 children. Other restrictions apply. Inquire about membership for couples or seniors. Call for details.

St. Johnsbury, Vermont  
US ROUTE 5 SOUTH AT I-91 AND I-93  
802 748-1500

## Marty's 1st Stop

US Route 2 • Danville, VT • (802) 684-2574

Mon.-Thurs. 5:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 7 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sun. 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

DELI

**Megabucks Tickets**  
**Mobil Speed Pass**

PIZZA served everyday

## DANVILLE SCHOOL 2007-2008 Schedule

Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

### Boys High School Basketball

December		
1	Saturday	Danville @ UCA NL (SAT) 3:00
6	Thursday	Concord @ Danville NL 6:00/7:30
8	Saturday	Blue Mountain @ Danville NL 1:00/2:30
11	Tuesday	Whitcomb @ Danville NL 6:00/7:30
15	Saturday	Danville @ Richford NL 1:00/2:30
18	Tuesday	Danville @ Williamstown NL 6:00/7:30
20	Thursday	Danville @ Concord NL 6:00/7:30
22	Saturday	Danville @ Blue Mountain NL 1:00/2:30
January		
3	Thursday	Hazen @ Danville NL 6:00/7:30
5	Saturday	Williamstown @ Danville 1:00/2:30
9	Wednesday	Danville @ Stowe NL 6:00/7:30
11	Friday	Northfield @ Danville NL 6:00/7:30
18	Friday	Danville @ Winooski 5:30/7:00
23	Wednesday	Richford @ Danville 5:30/7:00
25	Friday	Danville @ Lake Region 6:00/7:30
30	Wednesday	BFA Fairfax @ Danville 5:30/7:00
February		
1	Friday	Peoples @ Danville 6:00/7:30
6	Wednesday	Danville @ Hazen 6:00/7:30
8	Monday	Stowe @ Danville 6:00/7:30
11	Monday	Danville @ Northfield 6:00/7:30

### Girls High School Basketball

December		
5	Wednesday	Danville @ Thetford NL 5:30/7:00
10	Monday	Blue Mountain @ Danville NL 6:00/7:30
13	Thursday	Enosburg @ Danville NL 5:30/7:00
21	Friday	Richford @ Danville NL 5:30/7:00
January		
2	Wednesday	Danville @ Williamstown NL 6:00/7:30
9	Wednesday	BFA Fairfax @ Danville 5:30/7:00
12	Saturday	Winooski @ Danville 1:00/2:30
19	Saturday	Danville @ Richford 1:00/2:30
24	Thursday	Stowe @ Danville NL 6:00/7:30
26	Saturday	Williamstown @ Danville (SAT) 3:00/4:30
29	Tuesday	Danville @ Enosburg 5:30/7:00
31	Thursday	Peoples @ Danville 6:00/7:30
February		
2	Saturday	Danville @ Blue Mountain NL 1:00/2:30
5	Tuesday	Hazen @ Danville NL 6:00/7:30
7	Thursday	Danville @ Northfield NL 6:00/7:30
9	Saturday	Danville @ Concord NL 1:00/2:30
12	Tuesday	Danville @ Lake Region 6:00/7:30
14	Thursday	Northfield @ Danville 6:00/7:30
16	Saturday	Danville @ Stowe 1:00/2:30
19	Tuesday	Danville @ Hazen 6:00/7:30





# It's a Different World through the Eyes of a Landscape Painter

*It is a painstaking process, and it does take time, but as Rodney Reis says, whether you're thinking about the time when this technique was developed or about the 19th century when painters like Bierstadt and Asher Durand were in their prime, time itself was very different.*

TERRY HOFFER

Rodney Reis remembers his first visit to the art gallery at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. "I was 14," he says, "and the light coming through the gallery skylight and the landscape scenes of the great outdoors were amazing, but there was something more - something about the style and technique of those paintings that stayed with me. To this day I find myself going back and getting as close as I can to those canvases and wondering just how they did

it." Reis is no casual visitor to the artwork at the Athenaeum. He studied painting with Larry Golden at St. Johnsbury Academy and joined any number of class trips to its collections.

After the Academy he served in the army working as tank mechanic and eventually as a member of a group involved with tank design. It was there, he says, that his pencil drawings, watercolors and portraits led to considerable positive reinforcement. Reis uses words sparingly. He smiles when says, "I thought I'd found something."

After the army he worked for a specialty printing press north of New York City, and with Larry Golden's encouragement he enrolled in the fabled Art Students League where he studied the traditions of the grand masters.

Founded in 1875 the League is in New York City. It is a coop-



Photos By: North Star Monthly

*Rodney Reis is a landscape painter from Peacham. After studying at the Art Students League of New York and spending many hours among the paintings at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Reis prefers to start his paintings on site, outdoors. With his notes he often returns to his Peacham studio where with controlled lighting and heating the painting may evolve over the course of weeks, months or even years before it is finished.*

erative based upon the mutual help of members. With no degrees or diplomas and with no set curriculum, students and instructors participate for the love and pursuit of art, for the exchange of artistic ideas and techniques.

"It's like being transported back in time to a point where you study as an apprentice under a accomplished master, and you keep at it until you are ready to

go." Reis says, "The atmosphere is alluring, and the experience is so wonderful that some actually get stuck there. I wanted to learn how to use a palette and develop my technique, and I did that. It's an incredible place, but Larry warned me about getting too comfortable, and after five years I decided to get back to work."

Reis returned to high-quality catalogue printing, but he was never far from his painting. He was still fascinated by the idea that so many famous 19th century landscape painters like Albert

Bierstadt, Samuel Colman, Jasper Francis Cropsey, Asher Durand, James McDougal Hart and William Hart, painters like Jervis McEntee, Thomas Moran and Worthington Whittredge (all of whom are represented by work in the Athenaeum) packed up their paints and materials and set out for the open air of the great outdoors. "It seemed mythical ... adventuresome. They were hunting not for animals but for great views. They climbed mountains and packed in their equipment. Larry Golden tells

**When you think insurance...**

**Caledonia Insurance AGENCY, INC.**

663 Old Center Road, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819  
(802) 748-8797 Fax (802) 748-8609

**LITTLETON BIKE & FITNESS**

Fitness Season is Here! Come see all the latest indoor fitness Equipment!

28 Cottage St  
Littleton NH  
Open 7 Days  
Just off Exit 41

[www.littletonbike.com](http://www.littletonbike.com)

**Kix 105.5 FM**  
Hot New Country WXXH

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS from everyone at Kix 105.5**

**VPR New Program Schedule**

MONDAY - FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 AM BBC World Update (5 to 6 AM)	6 AM DDC World Service	6 AM DDC World Service
7 AM Morning Edition	7 AM Only in Cores	7 AM Speaking of Faith
8 AM BBC Newshour	8 AM Weekend Edition	8 AM Weekend Edition
9 AM On Point	9 AM Car Talk	9 AM On the Media
10 AM Vermont Edition	10 AM Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me!	10 AM A Prairie Home Companion
11 AM The Story	11 AM World Cafe	11 AM All the Traditions with Robert Hesnik
12 PM Day in Day	12 PM This American Life	12 PM The Splendid Table
1 PM Fresh Air	1 PM Marketplace Money	1 PM Studio 360
2 PM All Things Considered	2 PM All Things Considered	2 PM All Things Considered
3 PM Marketplace	3 PM A Prairie Home Companion	3 PM Word for Word
4 PM The World	4 PM My Place	4 PM Says You!
5 PM Jazz with George Thomas	5 PM American Routes	5 PM Selected Shorts
6 PM DDC World Service	6 PM Hearts of Space	6 PM Living on Earth
7 PM DDC World Service	7 PM Hearts of Space	7 PM RBC World
8 PM DDC World Service	8 PM Hearts of Space	8 PM RBC World
9 PM DDC World Service	9 PM Hearts of Space	9 PM RBC World
10 PM DDC World Service	10 PM Hearts of Space	10 PM RBC World
11 PM DDC World Service	11 PM Hearts of Space	11 PM RBC World
12 AM DDC World Service	12 AM Hearts of Space	12 AM RBC World

DDC World Service overnight

Set your dial to Vermont Public Radio  
88.5 FM St. Johnsbury; 94.3 FM Bennington; 94.5 FM Brattleboro;  
107.9 FM Burlington; 92.5 FM Manchester; 95.3 FM Middlebury;  
94.1 FM Montpelier; 88.7 FM Rutland; or 89.5 FM Windsor.

VPR Classical Contact VPR.NET for details.

**West Danville United Methodist Church**

**This Year, experience a CHRISTmas ADVENTure!**

Overlooking Joe's Pond  
Sunday Worship Service  
9:30  
God's Children of All Ages  
Welcome

**Rev. Gerry Piper**  
(802) 684-9804

**10 REASONS TO GIVE THE NORTH STAR AS A GIFT**

1. It fits.
2. It flatters.
3. You can recycle it.
4. It won't get returned.
5. Award winning articles.
6. It's only \$16 - delivered.
7. Award winning photography.
8. It's good for the whole month.
9. They'll think of you all year long.
10. It comes with our legendary service.

(802) 684-1056 or (800) 286-1056

**THE North Star MONTHLY**  
P.O. Box 319 • Danville, VT 05828





Reis makes his own paints using materials from specialty suppliers of pigment materials. The concentrated paste is then thinned as he uses it with natural resins and oils. It is a painstaking process, but as Reis says it represents his respect for the traditional craft.

that Bierstadt actually hired the Army to move his equipment into the Yosemite Valley. I loved the idea, and I love being outdoors."

Still outside of New York City, Reis and his young family found themselves with expanding connections in the art world including a small group of galleries interested in his work, but they were missing northern New England. He says, "It was a roller coaster ride with galleries. Some days we were eating lobster and the next we were glad to have hot dogs. But what really mattered was that we wanted to raise our kids the way we had been raised. We wanted to get back to a place where people

wave." Reis grew up in St. Johnsbury. His wife is from Passumpsic.

In the summer of 2000 they put their home in New York on the market, and eleven days later they had a buyer. They headed back to the Northeast Kingdom and extended family.

Today, Reis, himself, is a member of the faculty at St. Johnsbury Academy. He teaches painting not far from his former teacher and mentor Larry Golden. But still he is never far from his own paints. He has a studio beside his home in Peacham, and there he finds great pleasure in painting - the old way. Reis says that following old traditions may be time con-

suming, but it represents his acknowledgment of, and his respect for, the craft.

He paints on rigid panels. Traditionally such panels were made from cherry or oak. Reis has compromised in the use of masonite, but his treatment in priming the panels would be understood by any of the 17th century masters. With his own primer made from marble dust and gesso mixed into rabbit skin glue he applies eight to ten coats sanding carefully between. "The result," he says, "is unlike anything else. The ground is smooth but it has tooth to it." Most importantly, perhaps, the panel is absolutely predictable in its response to anything that goes on top.

He mixes his own paints from materials acquired from specialty suppliers using fish scales, colorful soils, flowers, minerals or precious stones as a base. Ground and mixed with walnut oil the thick pigment paste is stored in tubes. Reis has 92 concentrated colors in tubes carefully sorted and keyed to a color chart.

As his needs arise, as his painting gets underway, he'll

thin the pastes with any of a number of natural oils. His glass vials are like those in a science laboratory with oils ranging across a broad spectrum of color and viscosity. Depending on the weather conditions or the sheen he is looking for in the dried paint he may pick one oil or another or a uniquely blended combination from the group.

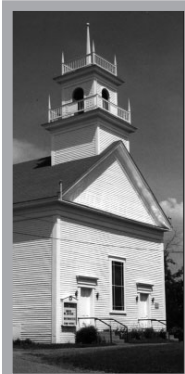
It is a painstaking process, and it does take time, but as Reis says, whether you're thinking about the time when this technique was developed or the 19th century when painters like Bierstadt and Asher Durand were in their prime, time itself was very different.

Today we talk on cell phones and we complain about waiting five minutes. There were probably times in the 19th century when the Bierstadts and the Durands of the world waited until June, for that is when those wonderful, huge, cumulus clouds were at their best. If you wanted to see with your own eyes the moment when the great outdoors was absolutely at its finest, you waited.

Reis still prefers to paint landscapes in the style of what

some think of as the Hudson River School. The group of painters that took up the call to ignore the style and content of the European masters and to define a vision for American painters included Durand (1796-1886) and Thomas Cole (1801-1848). They and others like them celebrated the wild nation that stretched to the west with a sense of awe for its natural resources and a feeling of optimism for the potential it held.

As Thomas Hampson wrote for the PBS series "I Hear America Singing," "They depicted a New World wilderness in which man, minuscule as he was beside the vast creation, nevertheless retained that divine spark that completed the circle of harmony." From 1825 through the 1870's they painted views of the Hudson River, the Catskills, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire and gradually the American West where, after the Civil War, Albert Bierstadt emerged as one of the rockstars of the movement. In 1867 he produced the enormous Domes of the Yosemite, the highlight of the Athenaeum collection in St. (See *Through the Eyes* on Page 35)



**The North Danville Church**  
American Baptist  
The Little White Church in the Vale  
Worship and Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.

**Celebrate the Season  
For the Right Reason**

**BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES**

**WARM WISHES for a  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**  
from Barb, Debbie, Rosemary  
Ernie, Connie, Linda,  
Sharon and Tristan.

P.O. Box 68, Main St., Danville, VT 05828  
**(802) 684-1127**

Barb Machell ..... 748-5248  
Debbie Allard ..... 748-9514  
Rosemary Gingue ..... 748-8843

309 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
**(802) 748-2045**

Ernie Begin ..... 748-4218  
Connie Sleath ..... 592-3034  
Linda Colby ..... 748-8451  
Sharon Slayton ..... 748-8508  
Tristan Barrett ..... 748-2240

INFORMATION ABOUT THESE HOMES AND OTHER  
LISTINGS CAN BE FOUND ON [www.nnen.com](http://www.nnen.com)  
Providing Professional and Courteous Service  
[www.beginrealty.com](http://www.beginrealty.com)

**BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES**

**Century 21 Winn Associates**  
69 Meadow Street  
Littleton, NH 03561  
(603) 444-7781 or (800) 998-7781  
or call me on my cell at (802) 274-6306  
Each office independently owned and operated

Happy holidays and best wishes for a great New Year to all my customers, and the readers of *The North Star*. If you are considering selling your house after the holidays and are wondering if it makes sense to put your house on the market in the middle of winter, please give me a call. I can review the pros and cons of selling your home in the winter, to help you make an informed decision. If you decide to put your house on the market, I can give you a strategy for winter selling that could make a big difference in securing that one, ready, willing and able buyer.  
Enjoy your holidays. *Clif Muller*

**Season's Greetings From All of Us**

We hope you all have a joyous holiday season. We are very grateful for your patronage and look forward to helping you in the coming year with your real estate needs. Take time this season to enjoy your families and be safe.  
Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you, and a special thanks to the local men and women serving in our armed forces. We appreciate your sacrifices.

Steve Quatrini      Susan Quatrini      Joyce Wieselmann      Sara Heft

1111 Main St. • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
email: [c21qre@sover.net](mailto:c21qre@sover.net)  
website: [quatrini.com](http://quatrini.com) • [realtor.com](http://realtor.com) or AOL Keyword  
"Century 21"  
**(802) 748-9543**

**QUATRINI**  
Real Estate

**"Real Estate for The Real World"**

# Click & Clack Talk Cars

## Phantom Gasoline

Tom and Ray:

This may not apply to the dark winter weather in the frost belt, but I recently read an article claiming that you should pump gas in the morning, when it's cool out, instead of in the afternoon, when it's hot. The reasoning was that gasoline expands at higher temperatures and contracts at lower temperatures, allowing more "dense" gas to be pumped when it's cold. I think this is nonsense, since a car's gas tank also will expand and contract, and because gas stored in an underground 500-gallon tank probably doesn't warm by more than a few degrees. So, what is the

truth to this? - Richard

RAY: Well, the expansion story is true, Richard. When gas pumps are calibrated, they're set to measure a gallon of gasoline that's 60°.

TOM: But when gasoline gets hotter than that, it expands. So you get less than a gallon's worth of energy for every gallon you pump. How much less? Well, the most recent congressional study we've seen found that the average temperature of gasoline sold in the United States is almost 65°. That means the average Joe is paying an extra three cents a gallon for phantom gasoline.

RAY: What can be done about it? Well, you can fill up in the middle of the night. But a

better solution would be to use pumps that compensate for temperature fluctuations. In Canada, where gasoline usually is COLDER than the standard - which is to the consumer's advantage - it was the gas stations that voluntarily backed a program to use those pumps. Queue surprise, as they say in Quebec!

TOM: But here, where the gas stations are getting the extra money, they argue that retrofitting their pumps is too expensive. They say it would cost \$1,500-\$3,000 per pump.

RAY: But with the value of the phantom gasoline sold adding up to more than \$2 billion a year now, the pressure on the gas stations will probably continue to heat up. Now, if they'd agree to put that 3 cents a gallon toward clean bathrooms, maybe a compromise could be worked out here.

My wife and I currently own a 2004 Subaru Forester. We bought an all-wheel-drive vehicle because, living in Vermont, we need the traction. We love the car, but the gas mileage isn't spectacular because of the AWD. The owner's manual talks about a way to make the car work in front-wheel drive only by inserting a spare fuse into the fuse box when you need to drive on a spare tire, so that the AWD system doesn't get ruined. Our question: If we put in this extra fuse to deactivate the AWD when the roads are clear and therefore get better gas mileage, are we running the risk of damaging the AWD system over time? - David

RAY: You've actually identified a problem that many people aren't aware of; David: All-wheel-drive vehicles are more expensive to own.

TOM: When you have all-wheel drive, you add an additional set of drive-train components. Those components add weight to the car, which decreases your mileage. They also can add to your repair

costs, because there are more things to break.

RAY: So if you live in, say, Florida, Arizona or Southern California, you do your commuting on paved roads, you probably want to skip the all-wheel drive and save some money.

TOM: A lot of people figure, "Well, it can't hurt. And maybe I'll be in a situation where it will be useful sometime." But they don't realize they're paying for that all-wheel drive every day in lower mileage.

RAY: Now, as you've discovered, David, Subaru does provide a way to deactivate the rear drive shaft. But unfortunately, it really won't help your mileage. Even though you can disconnect the rear drive-train from the transmission, those parts are still turning (it's just that the rear wheels are pushing them, rather than vice versa). AND you're still carrying all of those parts around with you. So you still have the weight AND some of the friction of the AWD system, even when it's disconnected.

TOM: So I'm afraid you're out of luck, David. What CAN you do? Make sure your tires are properly inflated, be sure your engine is tuned and running well, and take that 1,000-pound snowmobile out of the back of the car while you are waiting for summer to come back to Vermont.

## Save on mileage with AWD

Dear Tom and Ray:

Everyone at Coldwell Banker All Seasons Realty would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

**#6799 CABOT**  
1,000' OF OWNED WATERFRONT PROPERTY. On West Hill Pond in the historic town of Cabot VT, with a 3 bdrm., 2 bath, lovely, spacious well-kept home located on 13 gorgeous acres of open fields for horses or small animals and many delicious apple trees. Also sports an oversized 2 car detached garage with a heated room above for an office or just storage. Enjoy swimming, fishing, kayaking and canoeing from your own beach & dock area. Turn-key condition.  
**Offered at \$218,000**



**#6797 BARNET**  
PERFECT INVESTMENT PROPERTY... Spacious 2 family antique Colonial on 1+ acres, large front yard. Located in a picturesque town. 2,400 sq.ft. of living space, with a barn/garage for lots of storage, separate utilities-electrical & phone. Plenty of parking as well. Near skiing, hiking & snowmobiling. St. Johnsbury Academy sending high school. New renovations & more. Lease out one or both.  
**Offered at \$159,900**



**#6812 BURKE**  
Enjoy the comforts of home in this well furnished condo at Burke Mtn. This condo is 75 yards from the ski lift and/or base lodge for your convenience. Bring your whole family for the holidays! This condo has 2 bdrm., 2 baths, & a fireplace for those snowy evenings. Rent it out for extra income when you are not using it. A great investment on a great mountain!  
**Being offered at \$270,000**



**COLDWELL BANKER**  
**ALL SEASONS REALTY**  
470 Broad Street  
Lyndonville, VT  
**(802) 626-4343**  
Fax: (802) 626-3700  
email: allseaslyn@together.net

www.allseasonre.com

## DANVILLE LAND



### DIRECT ACCESS TO VAST

MLS#2654598: Enjoy the outdoors on this 66.2 acre lot. Hunting, snowmobiling and hiking. Build a get-away camp or a year round home. Private location only 2 miles from Danville village.

**\$87,500**

**Century 21 QUATRINI Real Estate**

1111 Main St. • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
email: c21qre@sover.net  
website: quatrini.com • realtor.com or AOL Keyword "Century 21"  
**(802) 748-9543**

"Real Estate for The Real World"



**ML#2685017:** Imagine living in this log cabin, located on 10.30 acres, in a rural setting. The cabin, built in 2000, includes one bedroom, a 3/4 bath, kitchen and living room and eating area. There is a drilled well and a 1,000 gallon septic tank. The property offers privacy and is well located for hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. It is located a short distance from a paved highway on a gravel road, which is maintained throughout the year.

**\$129,500**

75 MT. PLEASANT ST.  
ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 05819  
802-748-8169 • 802-748-8855

971 BROAD STREET  
LYNDONVILLE, VT 05851  
802-626-8333 • 802-626-9342

www.parkwayrealtysociates.com

## Danville Senior Action Center

### December Meal Schedule

- December 4** - Baked Fish with Lemon, Lemon Rice, Steamed Broccoli with Rolls, Tropical Fruit Salad, Orange Juice.
- December 6** - Beef Stew with Vegetables, Biscuits, Banana Bread, Pudding with Fruit.
- December 11** - Pulled Pork on Bun, Baked Beans, Pasta Salad with Broccoli and Red Peppers, Mixed Vegetables.
- December 13** - Dried Beef with Gravy on Toast, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, V-8 Juice, Peach Crisp.
- December 18** - Holiday Dinner at Danville Inn.
- December 20** - No Meal Site Dinner. Join us for Holiday on the Danville Green.
- December 25** - No Meal. Merry Christmas.
- December 27** - Chicken Cacciatore with Mushrooms and Peppers, Brown Rice, Whole Wheat Rolls, Mixed vegetables, Peach Applesauce.

Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$3.50 for guests 60+ (Others \$4.50) is appreciated.

# Through the Eyes of a Landscape Painter

(Continued from Page 33)

Johnsbury.

As Reis says, "For the successful American painters of the time, they were well known, and the money was good." They had a following, and there was no question that as they glorified the wilderness the line between secular and spiritual became hard to find. Reis quotes one painter as saying, "Painting is my prayer, and the easel is my church."

Paintings from the period attracted enormous attention, but as a new day was breaking with European and American painters entering the age of modernity, some avant-garde critics shed scorn on the American movement. As Reis likes to say, the so-called Hudson River School was no school, no building with teachers and classes. The term was coined by a newspaper writer who described the group that painted the great meditative landscapes as common and quite simply - ordinary. The writer's term, the Hudson River School, was far from a compliment, but it stuck. As Reis says, "They were dubbed, but many of us love their work no less."

Reis says that it's still a highlight for him and his students to step into the Athenaeum. "It's great to take people there for the first time and watch them open their eyes and 'see' in a way that never happens watching big screen televisions or computer screens. I'm still amazed to find those, even from St. Johnsbury, who have never been in there. One hundred and thirty-four

years ago when Horace Fairbanks open the gallery that's what people did for entertainment. They got together, and they looked across the room. [The Athenaeum opened on November 27, 1871; the art gallery addition was completed two years later. There are great accounts of some of those gatherings of citizens, children, dogs, orchestras and all manner of receptions even with an annual gathering on New Year's Eve to which everyone was invited.] Seeing and experiencing

works of art was popular entertainment, and to people like Peacham painter Rodney Reis, there is no advancement in technology that has replaced it.

*Rodney Reis is currently a member of the board of trustees of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and has an exhibition of his work on display in its upstairs gallery through December 31. In addition to his painting he makes and restores gold leaf frames. ★*



**St. Johnsbury:** This well-built and well-maintained home would be a good starter- or retirement-home. Two bedrooms and a total of 1,024 square feet. Large two car garage plus a detached workshop. Good location away from traffic yet close to all amenities. Ready for your occupancy. **\$159,000**

## REYNOLDS Real Estate

791 Broad Street ■ Lyndonville, VT 05851  
(802) 626-9357 ■ Fax (802) 626-6913  
www.reynoldsre.com  
Email: reynolds@charterinternet.com



# Cobleigh Public Library

Lyndonville

**Monday: Noon - 5 p.m.**  
**Tuesday: Noon - 7 p.m.**  
**Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Thursday: Noon - 7 p.m.**  
**Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES



Hi, I'm Debbie Allard, and I'm working in the Danville office of Begin Realty. Are you looking for a new home? Interested in finding some property to build a home or camp on? Or maybe you're ready to sell. I'd love the opportunity to work with you.

Give me a call at 684-1127.

Start your search here.



## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

## West Barnet Senior Action Center

### December Menu

- December 5** - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Whole Wheat Bread, Peaches and Cream.
- December 7** - Buffet.
- December 12** - Chop Suey, Bread, Cole Slaw, Cottage Cheese, Mixed Fruit.
- December 14** - Stuffed Chicken Breast, Squash, Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Raised Rolls, Pudding.
- December 19** - Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Pears.
- December 21** - Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Apple Sauce, Peas and Carrots, Rolls, Cook's Choice Dessert.
- December 26** - Closed for Christmas Holiday.
- December 28** - Macaroni & Cheese, Sausage, Pickled Beets, Stewed Tomatoes, Biscuits, Brownie Sundae.

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES



MOTIVATED SELLER has reduced the asking price on this lovely gambrel home in the heart of Danville village. This home sparkles w/new carpeting & fresh paint inside & out, & features 3 BRs, 2 baths & 1st floor laundry. Updates include new roof, kitchen, baths, deck overlooking the spacious yard, and new Energy Star rated windows. Attention first time homebuyers: This home will qualify for FHA or VHFA financing.

**ML2649436: Now priced at \$144,900**

Main Street  
Danville, VT 05828  
**(802) 684-1127**

Start your search here.



309 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
**(802) 748-2045**

Providing Professional and Courteous Service  
www.beginrealty.com



Peacham custom-built home w/34+/- open and wooded acres provide the setting for this custom-built home. Entertain and relax in the open floor plan featuring a cook's kitchen w/granite countertops, island and walk-in pantry. The 1st floor also offers a music room, a new 3/4 bath, dining area, and living area w/fieldstone & slate hearth. On the lower level are 2 BRs, office, full bath & laundry room. Choice of schools 7-12.

**ML2662338: \$435,000**

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES



Charming 3-bedroom house in the village of Peacham. Spacious living room, dining room and kitchen with room for an office. Wood floors throughout the house. Sit on your front porch and admire the views. Half acre lot filled with beautiful flowers. This one won't last long.

**ML2684849: Priced at only \$219,000**



Beautiful views overlooking the Connecticut River Valley, hills, & mountains - this 102-acre parcel is partly wooded w/open pasture & electricity. Located on a private, town maintained road in Barnet, you'll find many places to build your primary home. Choose the hilltop overlooking the barn, or a spot on the knoll in the back pasture. Within five minutes of Harvey's Lake! Small ranch style home included. May be available with less acreage. Call for details today!

**ML2660674: \$450,000**

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

**AROUND THE TOWNS**



**December**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Daily** - Northeast Kingdom Artisans' Guild Backroom Gallery featuring Annual Holiday Members' Show, Artisan's Guild, St. Johnsbury.

**Daily** - Atmospheres: Exhibition of paintings by Rodney Reis, Upstairs Gallery, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 748-8291

**Mondays** - Story Time, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Youth Library, 10:30 a.m. (802) 748-8291.

**Mondays** - Story Time, Pope Library, Danville, 10 a.m. (802) 684-2256.

**Mondays** - Just Parents meet with concerns for drugs and kids, Parent Child Center, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. (802) 748-6040.

**1st & 3rd Mondays** - "Six O'Clock Prompt," Writers' Support Group, 6 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 633-2617.

**2nd Monday** - Cancer Support Group, NVRH Conference Room A, 4 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

**Last Monday** - Alzheimer's Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

**Tuesdays** - Baby & Toddler Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

**Tuesdays** - Cribbage Tournaments, 6 p.m. Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 684-3386.

**2nd & 4th Tuesday** - Bereavement Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 5:30 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

**Wednesdays** - Preschool Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

**Wednesdays** - Read 'n' Stuff, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

**Wednesdays** - Ordinary Magic. Meditation for Life, St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Avenue, 6-7 p.m.

**3rd Wednesday** - Cardiac Support Group, NVRH, 6:30 p.m.

(802) 748-7401.

**Thursdays** - Introduction to Computers, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

**3rd Thursday** - Caregivers Support Group, Riverside Life Enrichment Center, 10 a.m. (802) 626-3900.

**Thursdays** - Read and Weed Book Club, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

**Fridays** - Friday Tea Room, North Danville Baptist Church, 2-4 p.m. (802) 748-4096.

**Saturday & Sunday** - Planetarium Show 1:30 p.m. Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2372.

**Saturdays** - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 12:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

**3rd Saturday** - Breast Cancer Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury, 10 a.m. (802) 748-8116.

Athenaeum, 7 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

**5** Who Was Robert Frost? With Nancy Nahra, Stanstead College, Quebec, 7 p.m. (819) 876-7891.

**5** Book Discussion: Nancy Marie Brown's *The Far Traveler - Voyages of a Viking Woman*, LSC's Samuel Reed Library, Lyndon. 12:30 p.m. (802) 626-6495.

**7-9** Fine Art & Crafts Holiday Show, American Legion Hall, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. North Troy. (802) 988-4300.

**8** NorthWoods Holiday Craft Fair with local craft and antique dealers, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

**8** Winter Food in the Abenaki Wigwam, 10 a.m. - Noon. VT History Museum, Montpelier. (802) 828-2180.

**8** First Annual Wilson Globe Geography Bee sponsored by the Bradford Historical Society. 1 p.m. Oxbow High School, Bradford. Spectators and donations welcomed. (802) 222-4423.

**8** Northsong Winter Concert, Barton United Church, 7:30 p.m. (802) 334-2757.

**9** NEK Audubon trip to Maine coast. Meet at exit 44 rest area on I-93, 6 a.m. (802) 626-9071.

**9** Northsong Winter Concert, Barton United Church, 7:30 p.m. (802) 334-2757.

**11** Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital annual meeting, 6 p.m. Black Bear Tavern and Grill, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8141.

**13** Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.

**14** Island Pond Christmas Bird Count, 7:15 p.m. For information call: NorthWoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

**15** Lyndon State College Community Chorus, Holiday Concert, Alexander Twilight Theater, Lyndon. 7 p.m. (802) 626-6426.

**15** John Thade Concert, Danville Town Hall, 2 p.m. (800) 559-7070.

**16** Holiday Festival of Choirs, 2 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Lyndon.

**December**

**1** Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.

**1** Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

**1** Green Cone sales event, Barre Town Recycling Depot, 9 a.m. - Noon. Green Cones are backyard food waste digesters that can reduce household trash production by 20%. (802) 472-5424.

**1&2** Burklyn Arts Holiday Market; Lyndon Town School; Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (802) 626-6210.

**1&2** The Polar Express, Lyndon Freighthouse, Lyndonville, 4 & 6 p.m. (802) 626-1400.

**3** NEK Audubon Informational and Planning Meeting: 4:30 p.m., Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury.

**4** North Danville Community Club, Meeting, 6 p.m. North Danville Community Center. (802) 748-9415.

**5 HANUKKAH**

**5** Where in the World is Kingdom County with Howard Frank Mosher, St. Johnsbury



Photo By: Sarah Walls  
 Last summer Sarah, Toby and Hallie Walls enjoyed the shores of Camano Island surrounded by Puget Sound and the State of Washington. The area is a haven for boating, clamming, crabbing and fishing as well as simply enjoying the warmth of the sun. Sarah Walls says, "We took The North Star on our visit with family. We usually mail the paper to our family after we read it, but this time we delivered it by hand." Above are Hallie and Toby Walls.

- 16** Pumpkin Hill Singers Concert, North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 684-3666.
- 17** Book Discussion Joseph Ellis' *Passionate Sage: The Character and Legacy of John Adams*, Dailey Memorial Library, Derby, 10:30 a.m. (802) 766-5063.
- 19** Book Discussion, J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. Pope Library, Danville, 7 p.m. (802) 684-2256.
- 20** Holiday on the Green open house, Danville, 5 - 7 p.m. (802) 684-1056.
- 20** Pumpkin Hill Singers Concert, Danville Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m. (802) 684-3666.
- 21** Winter Woods Walk, 9 a.m. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.
- 22** First Day of Winter.
- 22** Holiday Coffeehouse with fine music, glad tidings, homemade baked goods and hot drinks, 7 p.m. NorthWoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**
- 31** First Night, St. Johnsbury.



**Boxcar & Caboose**  
 Bookshop Café

**17,000 Individual Titles on the shelf make GREAT GIFTS!**  
 Open Mon.-Thurs. 7-7, Fri. 7-9, Sat 9-7 & Sun. 9-5

**Holiday Cards ■ 2008 Calendars**  
**Gift Wrap & Bags ■ Stocking Stuffers**

802-748-3551  
 384 Railroad St.  
 St. Johnsbury, VT

**WANTED**

antiques,  
 collectibles,  
 household furnishings,  
 contents of attics,  
 cellars & outbuildings

**By the piece  
 or the whole lot.**

Offering current  
 knowledge of values  
 with 35 years  
 of experience.

**Scott & Joni Palmer**  
**684-2265**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS...**  
 Shop here for ALL the friends and family on your Christmas list!

**MORRISON'S FEED BAG**  
 St. Johnsbury, Vermont

**Toys** - farm tractors, trucks, barnyard sets  
**Decorative Bird Seed Wreaths**  
**Bird Feeders**  
**Pet Toys**  
**Tractor Calendars**  
**Fleece Blankets**

- **Organic livestock medications from Texas**
- **Organics, Impro and others**
- **Pine shavings 2.8 cu. ft. \$4.29**
- **Straw bedding \$5.97**

Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30 Saturday 8:30-1  
**(802) 748-0010**